

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019***  
***Town of Hounsfield***  
***Water District #3***  
***(Public Water Supply ID NY2230115)***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Town of Hounsfield WD3, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mark Warneck, Town of Hounsfield Water Operator at (315) 778-6926. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 237 people through 95 service connections and our water source is the Village of Sackets Harbor. Attached is a copy of the Village's annual water quality report. In addition, the Town checks chlorine residuals on a daily basis at different points in WD3.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, the Village of Sackets Harbor routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants which are summarized in their attached report. In addition, the Town tests for disinfection by-products and total coliform in WD3 and a summary of these results are presented below.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Watertown District Office of the New York State Department of Health at (315) 785-2277.**

chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019**  
**Village of Sackets Harbor Water Treatment Plant**  
**Ambrose Street, Sackets Harbor, NY 13685**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 2202343)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Sackets Harbor will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **The Development Authority of the North Country, 661-3210**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm at the village office.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves 1250 people through 667 service connections within the Village of Sackets Harbor. We also supply water for the Town of Hounsfield Water District. Our water source is surface water drawn from Lake Ontario, which is located at the end of Ambrose Street. The water is pumped from Lake Ontario through micro filters (fiber membranes), into a clear well where chlorine contact time is met. It is then pumped from the clear well to the 2 elevated water storage tanks, prior to distribution.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, E. Coli., turbidity, inorganic chemicals, principal organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, total trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department a 785-2277.

## Turbidity

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	NO	DAILY	100% ≤ 0.3	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of all samples ≤ 0.3	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	NO	8/3/19	0.15	NTU	N/A	TT- <0.3 NTU	

<sup>1</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 8/3/19 (0.15 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

## Inorganics

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	NO	8/14/19	0.185	mg/l	10	MCL= 10mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	NO	2019	.73/1.01 .36-1.01	mg/l	N/A	MCL= 2.2 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Copper	NO	7/12/17- 8/7/2017	0.046 <sup>2</sup> .0033- .0532	mg/l	1.3	AL= 1.3 <sup>2</sup>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	NO	7/12/17- 8/7/2017	1.4 <sup>3</sup> ND-3.3	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Arsenic	NO	9/25/12	0.0014	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	NO	11/14/18	0.020	mg/l	2.0	MCL=2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

<sup>2</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (0.046mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

<sup>3</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of

a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. The action level was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Radiological

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	NO	12/3/14	0.83	pCi/L	0	15 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium 226 and 228	NO	12/3/14	0.93	pCi/L	0	MCL=5 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>4</sup> An MCL violation occurs when the annual composite of four quarterly samples or the average of the analysis of four quarterly samples exceeds the MCL.

## Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	2019	74.6 <sup>5</sup> (53.6-100.5)	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 80 ug/l Based on a running annual average.	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids-HAA5	NO	2019	47.4 <sup>5</sup> (23.7-64.1)	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 60ug/l Based on a running annual average.	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<sup>5</sup> This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from the data collected.

**Microbiological**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	No	2019	0	N/A	N/A	MCL=2 or more positive samples in 1 month <sup>6</sup>	Naturally Present in the environment.

<sup>6</sup> A violation occurs at systems collecting 40 or more samples per month when more than 5% of the total coliform samples are positive. A violation occurs at systems collecting less than 40 samples per month when two or more samples are total coliform positive.

**Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l) or (mcg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr):** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?**

During 2019, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

**Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2019 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.34 mg/l of the target level for 100% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **Why Save Water and How to Avoid Wasting It?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office, at 661-3210, if you have questions.