

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016
Town of Hounsfield Water Distribution
Water District # 4

Introduction

To comply with State regulations the Town of Hounsfield, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. All water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. Testing is done to see that your water does not exceed MCL's (Maximum Containment Levels).

Where Does Our Water Come From

We purchase water from the Village of Sackets Harbor through a distribution line on Military road. There Water Quality report is available upon request.

General

Our system serves App.100 people through 40 service lines. In addition to the Village testing. We periodically flush our lines to achieve chlorine residual at all places in our line.

For the year 2016 the Town of Hounsfield District 4 had no violations

Jeffrey J Kenney certified Water Operator 782-6380 Ext. 2

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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 ¹	NO	DAILY	100%≤0.3	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of all samples ≤ 0.3	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity ¹	NO	12/10/16	0.16	NTU	N/A	TT- <0.3 NTU	

¹ 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 12/10/16 (0.16 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	8/17/16	<0.10	mg/l	10	MCL= 10mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	NO	2016 (Daily)	0.68/0.8 0.6-0.8	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	6/17-7/24/2014	0.107 ² .006-.839	mg/l	1.3	AL= 1.3 ²	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	NO	6/17-7/24/2014	0.94 ³ ND-5.36	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	7/27/15	0.024	mg/l	2.0	MCL=2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

² The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th 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 90th percentile value was the second highest value (0.107mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

³ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead

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 ⁴	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium 226 and 228	NO	12/3/14	0.93	pCi/L	0	MCL=5 ⁴	Erosion of natural deposits

⁴ 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, bromodichloro methane, dibromochloro methane, and bromoform)	NO	2016	61.8 ⁵ (44.8-59.4)	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	2016	27.8 ⁵ (13-55)	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 60ug/l Based on a running annual average.	By-product of drinking water chlorination

⁵ 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	2016	0	N/A	N/A	MCL=2 or more positive samples in 1 month ⁶	Naturally Present in the environment.

⁶ 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 2016, 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 2016 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.1 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 fire fighting 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.