

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

Town of Long Lake Water District #1 - Raquette Lake, New York 13436

(Public Water Supply ID NY2000130)

Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Water District #1 annually issues 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 water supply, please contact Keith Austin, Water Superintendent, at (518) 624-2199 or the NYS Department of Health, 41 St. Bernard Street, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 at (518) 891-1800. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. They are held the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise specified.

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 activity. 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 of New York and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the concentration of certain contaminants found in water provided by public water systems. The DOH and the FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source includes 3 drilled wells located off Sagamore Road, approximately one mile from Route 28. A water treatment building houses chlorination equipment, storage tanks and control equipment. Our water system serves a varying number of people through 86 service connections.

The DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer and overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that our water supply is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbiological contamination.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds, including PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. Some contaminants, such as nitrate, are tested for annually. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less frequently (such as every three, six or nine years) because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. As a result, some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The table below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. Please see Table 1: Detected Contaminants below for information on contaminants that were detected in our water. All contaminants were below the Maximum Contaminant Level allowed by the State.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health at (518) 891-1800.

Table 1: Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 226 & 228	No	2020	0.55	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	2020	1.1	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	2014	1.3	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	No	2023	0.8	mg/L	n/a	2.2 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Copper	No	2024	ND ¹ ND-ND ²	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	2024	0.0375 ¹ ND-0.045 ²	ug/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Chloride	No	2019	1.5	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium	No	2019	8.5	mg/L	n/a	See Note 3	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	No	2019	14	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	2024	ND	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2024	2.8	ug/L	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2024	12.6	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination

NOTES:

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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 the average of the 4th and 5th highest lead and copper values detected at your water system.

2 – The level presented represents a range of the lead and copper samples collected. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the 5 test sites.

3 – Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

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): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Pico curies per liter (pCi/L) – Pico curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

What does this information mean?

As you can see in Table 1: Detected Contaminants, our water 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. Although our lead and copper levels were well below the Action Limits, we are required to provide the following statement: Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The **Raquette Lake Water District** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Keith Austin, Water Superintendent, at (518) 624-2199. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

Last year the **Raquette Lake Water District** was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements, including the preparation of a lead service line inventory. This inventory is publicly available and can be accessed at the **Long Lake Town Office**.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The **Raquette Lake Water District** recently completed a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) and submitted it to the NYS Department of Health on October 16, 2024, as required. A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable service lines within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and has made it publicly accessible at the Long Lake Town Office. The LSLI is an ongoing effort and will be updated annually. Our system has a total of 86 active service connections. Of these active service connections, 31 were confirmed to not contain lead or galvanized material and do not require replacement. The remaining 55 service lines have not been identified. If you have not done so already, please contact the Town to let us know if your service line is either lead, galvanized pipe, copper, or plastic. If you need help making this determination, please contact the Town directly.

Do I need to take special precautions?

It should be noted that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Why save water and how to avoid wasting it?

While it may seem counterintuitive to economize water in an area where lakes, ponds and streams abound, there is still a need to protect and conserve this resource. Our new system has an adequate amount of water to meet demands, but it is not limitless. Climate changes can have a significant effect on the supply and in fact, in the recent past, some scientific data has indicated that the Adirondacks have experienced less annual precipitation. Conserving water preserves a vital resource which our lives depend upon. But there are more reasons why it is important to conserve water. Saving water saves on the costs associated with providing potable water. Saving water reduces energy consumption and the need to construct costly pumping systems. 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's not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle: load it to capacity before you run it.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- When washing dishes or pots & pans by hand, only turn the tap on when rinsing them.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks and repair them.
- Check your toilets for leaks: put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and watch 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!
- Install water saving devices in your home. For more details, talk to the Water Department.
- Report possible water main leaks to the Water Department.
- Correct conditions in your water service that will prevent the need to run "bleeders" in the winter. (For financial help or incentives to make corrections, read further.)
- Commercial or residential water users whose properties are next to a lake or a pond could rig up a system to pump water from the lake or pond for lawn or garden watering.
- For more information and tips about how to save water, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

DID YOU KNOW?

A dripping faucet could waste from 1000 to 6000 gallons in a year. A continuous leak from a hole sized as follows, at 60 psi water pressure, would, over a three-month period, wastes water in the following amounts:

Diameter of stream	Number of Gallons
1/4"	1,181,500
3/16"	666,000
1/8"	296,000
1/16"	74,000

A word about "bleeders". It is the practice of a number of homeowners to run a hose all winter to prevent the freezing of the home's water lines. In most cases, this practice is the result of a faulty design in the plumbing and it can be corrected. Be advised that in the future, *(date unknown at this time)*, the Town will be compelled by regulatory oversight agencies to adopt a law against running bleeders. Those of you who practice this should begin planning how to fix your problem. Remember that the water flowing out of your hose adds cost to the entire District; using the diameter example above, you can calculate how many gallons you are "bleeding". FYI, there are funds available through the Hamilton County "Home Improvement Program": some homeowners may qualify for this assistance to remedy a water-line freezing problem. Call Avalon Associates, Inc. at (518)798-0777 if you want to pursue this.

Closing

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and your family with water. The Raquette Lake Water Department works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers do their part in protecting our water sources: this means not only from pollution, but from vandalism or from acts of terrorism. Our water system is at the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.