

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023

*Village of Canajoharie
75 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie, NY 13317
Public Water Supply ID# NY2800137*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Canajoharie 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. 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: Mr. Frank Nestle, Supt. of Water, 75 Erie Blvd, Canajoharie, NY 13317; Telephone (518) 673-2007. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Village Office Building, 75 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY 13317 at 6:00 PM.

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 Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is a surface water source consisting of several upland springs. The Hill, Gray, Sand, Young, and Plank Springs comprise the "spring line" in addition to the Sprite Creek which feeds water to our reservoir. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 93 million gallons. The water is filtered at our Slow Sand Filtration plant. The plant consists of three slow sand filters. After passing through the filters the finished water is disinfected by injection of a sodium hypochlorite solution. Water is stored at the Smith Street Reservoir, East Hill Tank, and Palatine Clear well, providing us with 2.63 million gallons of water storage to meet consumer demand and provide adequate fire protection.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how rapidly contaminants can move through the subsurface to the springs. The susceptibility of a water supply source to contamination is dependent upon both the presence of potential sources of contamination within the source's contributing area and the likelihood that the contamination can travel through the environment to reach the source. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Our water is derived from several spring sources and a reservoir. Based on the analysis of available information for these spring sources, there are no water quality concerns found in the assessment area. No land cover water quality concerns, permitted discharges, or other discrete facilities were identified in the assessment area using GIS. It should be noted that springs in general can be highly sensitive to petroleum products and solvents. An assessment of the reservoir found no noteworthy risks to source water quality. It should be noted that reservoirs in general are highly sensitive to phosphorus and microbial contaminants. You may obtain a copy of the source water assessment by contacting Village of Canajoharie or N.Y. State Department of Health Herkimer District Office.

Please note that our water is filtered and disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 2,300 people through 868 service connections. The total amount of water produced in 2023 was 176,206,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 483,000-gallons per day. Our single highest daily use was 548,000 gallons.

Table of Detected Contaminants Village of Canajoharie Water Works PWS ID#NY2800137							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (Highest value from (8/3/23) ¹	N	Daily	0.0599	NTU	N/A	TT=5.0	Soil Run-off
			100% < 1.0			TT=95% of samples <1.0 NTU	
Inorganic Contaminants							
Chloride	N	07/11/23	35.1	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Copper ² Range of values	N	08/31/21	.34 .018-.374	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits;
Lead ³ Range of values	N	08/31/21	3.4 ND-21.9	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	7/11/23	0.0010	ppb	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel mills/metal factories
Sodium ⁴	N	07/11/23	16.9	ppm	N/A	See note 4	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Nitrate	N	07/11/23	0.364	ppm	10	10	Runoff from Fertilizer
Barium	N	07/11/23	0.0144	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Color	N	7/11/23	<5	Units	N/A	15	Large quantities of organic chemicals, inadequate treatment, high disinfectant, demand and the potential for production of excess amounts of disinfectant by-products such as trihalomethanes; Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter.
Odor ⁵	N	7/11/23	<1	Units	N/A	3	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges; natural sources
Disinfection Byproducts							
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] ⁶ Range of values	N	1/12/23 4/11/23 7/11/23 10/17/23	19.2 16-27.7	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] ⁶ Range of values	N	1/12/23 4/11/23 7/11/23 10/17/23	13.17 8.71- 21.1	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (average) range	N	Daily	1.24 0.61 – 1.98	ppm	MRDLG	MRDL	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
					N/A	4	

Notes:

- 1–Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Level detected represents the highest level detected. Our average turbidity is 0.01 NTU and our lowest level detected was 0.01NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 1.0 NTU
- 2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
- 3 – A system must provide information on lead in drinking water irrespective of whether the system detected lead in any of its samples. Lead above 15 ug/l (the Action Level) in more than 5% but fewer than 10% of the sites sampled. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at 1 of the 10 sites tested.
- 4- 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.
- 5-Odor is measured by this standard procedure has no health effects; although several contaminants exert odors when they are present at levels near their MCLs. Odor is an important quality factor affecting the drinkability of water.
- 6– The average is based on a Running Annual Average. The average shown represents the highest RAA for the 4 quarters in 2019. The highest average for TTHM was the 4th quarter and HAA5 was in the 2nd quarter.

Glossary

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

90th Percentile Value- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination

RAA –The RAA is calculated each quarter by taking the average of the four most recent samples collected.

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

N/A-Not applicable

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

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds in addition, we test 2 samples for coliform bacteria monthly. The table presented prior 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, are more than one years 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 Department of Health Herkimer District Office at (315) 866-6879.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no contaminate level 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 2023, our system was issued one violation from the Herkimer Office, Department of Health, for failure to submit (TTHM and HAA5) sample results to their office by the required date. Please note that there were no contaminate levels exceeded and the results have been sent to their office. We will continue to work with the Herkimer office in the future to assure sample results are delivered in a timely fashion.

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) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

INFORMATION ON LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. 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 homes plumbing. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of Canajoharie is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

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 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

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. Please call our office if you have questions at (518) 673-2007.