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Town of Gorham
P.O. Box 224
Gorham, NY 14461

2024 Town of Gorham Annual Water Quality Report

Public Water Supply ID#: 3401170

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The Town of Gorham 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. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to NYS Standards. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

Where does my water come from, and how is it treated?

The Town of Gorham Water Department supplies approximately 4950 people through 1560 connections in the Towns of Gorham and Hopewell. The water supply for the Town of Gorham consists of one primary source and two secondary sources. The main source of drinking water is Canandaigua Lake. The surface water from the lake is piped into the Gorham Water Treatment Plant where it is treated using a Diatomaceous Earth Filtration System and Chlorination to remove turbidity and microorganisms. The water is also treated with ultraviolet disinfection equipment. The City of Canandaigua and the Town of Seneca provide our back-up sources of water. The back up sources are purchased for water emergencies. The Canandaigua system uses Canandaigua Lake water and the Seneca system uses groundwater. The back-up systems were minimally used during the 2024 year during water main breaks.



Canandaigua Lake

The NYS Department of Health completed a source water assessment of our water. This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for protozoa, phosphorus, DBP (disinfection by-product) precursors, and pesticide contamination. There is also a moderate density of sanitary wastewater discharges, but the ratings for the individual discharges do not result in elevated susceptibility ratings. However, it appears that the total amount of wastewater discharged to surface water in this assessment area is high enough to further raise the potential for contamination (particularly for protozoa). There are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources.



Water Treatment Facility

As water travels over the surface of 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 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.

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

Annual Water Usage and Cost

The Town of Gorham had an annual water usage of 182,162,000 gallons in 2024. We successfully delivered 119,023,351 gallons to customers. The annual water loss for 2024 was 63,138,649 gallons. All but 30,849,533 gallons have been accounted for. Some loss was due to water main failures, frozen meters and services, Fire Department usage, use by churches, flushing hydrants, etc. Unaccounted losses were 17 % this year. For the year of 2024 the average cost of water, per family, was \$400.00 per year.

GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in opportunities to become more involved with your water supply, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Commission holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of January, March, June, September, and December. For more information contact Jim Abraham or Gordy Frieda at the Canandaigua Hurley Building, 205 Saltonstall Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424 or 585-396-5060.

Water Conservation

Water conservation helps the environment by preserving this natural resource. You can conserve water by:

- ★ Checking for and repairing leaks inside and out.
- ★ Checking your toilet for leaks (put a few drops of food coloring in the tank, if the color shows up in the bowl within a few minutes, you have a leak) Making repairs can save 30,000 gallons of water a year.
- ★ Replacing older fixtures with water saving showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet dams, or low flush toilets.
- ★ Using swimming pool covers to minimize evaporation
- ★ Watering lawns less frequently and preferably early in the morning or late in the evening.
- ★ Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ★ If you use an automatic dishwasher, waiting to run it



TESTING RESULTS FOR 2024—TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

As you review the results, keep in mind 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 at 1-800-426-4791. As state regulations require, the Town of Gorham routinely monitors your drinking water for various contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds. The contaminants detected in your drinking water are included in the following table. The State allows us to monitor 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.

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Date Collected	Water Result Average/range	Violation?	Typical Source of Contamination
Turbidity (Before Treatment)	NTU	TT=5.0	N/A	August 2024	3.37**	NO	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity (at filters)	NTU	TT=95% of samples <1 NTU	N/A	1/2024-12/2024	0.34(0.30-0.40) 100% <1 NTU	NO	Soil Runoff.
Radioactivity							
Gross alpha	pCi/L	15	0	10/2022	None Detected	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium 226 and 228	pCi/L	5***	0	10/2022	1	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing Radium 226 and 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Uranium	ug/l	30	0	10/2022	0.359	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing Uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Inorganic Chemicals							
Barium	mg/l	2	2	12/2024	0.024	NO	Discharge from drilling washes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Flouride	mg/l	2.2	N/A	12/2024	0.11	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	mg/L	10	10	12/2024	0.186	NO	Runoff from fertilizer user; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	mg/l	AL=1.3	1.3	9/2023	*.98 (0.02-24)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	ug/l	AL=15	0	9/2023	*2.8 (ND-6.2)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection By-products							
Total Trihalomethanes Stage 2	ug/l	80	N/A	Quarterly 2024	30.5 (18-66)****	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids Stage 2	ug/l	60	N/A	Quarterly 2024	20.6 (14-27)****	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	N/A	Two positive samples/month	0	Monthly 2023	No Positive Samples	NO	Naturally present in the environment.

*During 2023 we collected and analyzed 21 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90th percentile of the 21 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 lead values detected at our water system. One site exceeded the action level for lead. The action level for copper was not exceeded.

**Highest monthly average.

***MLC for combined Radium 226 & 228. A MCL violation occurs when the annual composite of four quarterly samples or the average of the analysis of four quarterly samples exceeds the MCL.

****This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

Additional Information about lead: Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Gorham is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Gorham at 585-394-1580 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>.

MCL - (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

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

MCLG - (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as possible.

MRDL - (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) - 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.

MRDLG - (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) - 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.

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system.

Definitions

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

pCi/L - (Picocuries per liter) - The measure of radioactivity in water.

NTU - (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) - A measure of the clarity of water.

Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.

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

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

ND - Not Detected.

NA - Not Applicable.

Discussion of Testing Results

As you can see from the table, we had no violations this year. 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, 1-800-426-4791.

The Town of Gorham is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, call Nathan Bay at 585-394-1580 or the NYSDOH at 315-789-3030.

System Upgrades Modifications

Breaking ground on a new water treatment plant is planned to begin in the summer of 2025

Work on a new water main on Route 364 will continue during the summer along with the replacement of a 500,000 gallon storage tank.

Questions regarding these upgrades can be directed to Nathan Bay, Chief Operator at PO Box 224, Gorham, NY 14461, or call 585-394-1580.

Additional Discussion on Test Results

Gorham Town is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. During the period from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 we did not monitor or test for PFOA/S and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during this time. Throughout all of the other months, our system was in full compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.