

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

OLD FORGE AND THENDARA WATER DISTRICTS

P.O. BOX 157

OLD FORGE, NY 13420

FEDERAL ID # 2102312

THENDARA ID # 2102315

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Old Forge and Thendara Water Districts, 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 **Scott Gaffney** DPW Superintendent at 315-369-3612. 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. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the town offices at 3140 State Route 28 Old Forge, New York.

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 has 800 service connections serving 1275 permanent residents and up to 5000 people during the tourist season.

Our water source is two drilled production wells, one with a depth of 164 feet; the other is 237 feet deep. They are located past the end of North Street Old Forge, New York. After disinfection, fluoridation and corrosion control, the water is pumped to a 750,000-gallon capacity storage tank for distribution to our customers.

The New York State Department of Health 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 state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. 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 contaminants, if any, that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 2 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a low susceptibility for all contaminant categories. There are no known discrete sources of contamination and the natural sensitivity of the sources are also low. This was due, in large part, to the unknown composition of the soils in the area. Overall, the sources are rated to have a low susceptibility for contamination.

While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

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. 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. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, **2024**. For contaminants that are not tested every year we have included the most recent data. Some of our data, though representative, are 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 Department of Health, Herkimer District Office, 5665 State Route 5 Herkimer, NY 13350 Phone 315-866-6879.

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
(1) Copper	N	8/23	0.6903 (0.0596 - 1.0581)	MG/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Nitrate Well 1 Well 2	N	4/24 4/24	.75 .74	MG/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits
(2) Lead	N	8/23	3.2 (0 – 7.5)	UG/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
HAA5	N	9/24	1.0	UG/L	N/A	60 UG/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
(3) Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	8/24	2.4	UG/L	N/A	80	TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Gross Alpha Well 1 Well2	N	12/19 12/19	0.427 1.1	PCI/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium Well 1 Well 2	N	12/19 12/19	0.118 2.33	UG/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium Well 1 Well 2	N	12/19 12/19	0.189 0.564	PCI/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium Well 1 Well 2	N	5/21 5/21	2.3 2.2	UG/L	200	200	Discharge of drilling waste. Discharge from Metal Refineries. Erosion of natural deposits
(4) Fluoride Distribution	N	2024	.55 (.42-.67)	MG/L	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicated 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 0.204 mg/l for copper. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of lead values detected at your water system. In this case 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 0 ug/l for lead. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collectors.

4 – This level represents the average of monthly samples and the range calculated from data collectors.

We also tested for dozens of other contaminants not listed here with no detects.

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.

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.

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

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

Parts per million (ppm): one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

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

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.

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 home's plumbing. The Old Forge Water District 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>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2024, We constantly tested for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with past year we monitored for coliform, E.coli but failed to provide the results to the Herkimer county health department .This does not pose a threat of our water supply.

Information on lead service line Inventory?

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 SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead line inventory and have made it publicly assessable by contacting the Webb Town Clerks office at 3140 NY-28 Old Forge Ny or visiting our website at (townofwebbny.gov) Department Of public works

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 2024, monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 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.

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.

We are looking for more tier one sites to test for lead and copper. A tier one site is a

residence with copper pipes with lead solder joints installed or replaced after 1982. Another tier one site would be a residence with a lead service. If your home meets these criteria, please contact me. I may be able to use it for a sampling point. If you own a business with piping installed during these years, I may be able to use it as a secondary sampling site.

Sincerely

Peter S Gaffney
Department of Public Works Superintendent