

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025***  
***Essex Water District***  
***PO Box 355 Essex, NY 12936***  
***(Public Water Supply ID NY1500278)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Essex 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 source. Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. 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 **Ken Hughes, Town Supervisor, (518) 963-4287**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month.

## **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.

The source of water for Essex Water District is Lake Champlain. The water plant is located on Beggs Point where water is pumped from the lake and filtered with the use of 2 pressure diatomaceous earth filters, each rated at 60 gpm. The filters are intended to be used separately. The intake extends out approximately 40' from shore and is located in 50 feet of water. Disinfection is accomplished with an electric hypochlorinator and a baffled 19,000-gallon chlorine contact tank. High lift pumps, each rated at 70gpm then pressurize the distribution system putting water into the upland 137,000-gallon storage tank. Water is treated with orthophosphate at the filtration plant for corrosion control. We are currently in the process of upgrading our filter plant and it should be online in the near future.

The Town of Essex worked with the Towns of Willsboro and Chesterfield to create the Lake Champlain Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) Plan. The Plan focuses on the Main Lake section of Lake Champlain, in the public water districts of Essex, Port Kent, and Willsboro. We identified several potential contaminant sources including chemical spills from railroads, roadways, and boat launches, nutrients from septic systems, and sedimentation from the Boquet River. We are currently working on finalizing the public facing version of the Plan and will post it on our Town website ([www.essexnewyork.com](http://www.essexnewyork.com)) when it is available.

## **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, haloacetic acids, radiological 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. 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 Health Department at (518) 891-1800.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

| Contaminant                           | Violation<br>Yes/No | Date of<br>Sample | Level<br>Detected<br>(Average)<br>(Range)         | Unit<br>Measure-<br>ment | MCLG | Regulatory Limit<br>(MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>   |                     |                   |                                                   |                          |      |                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Turbidity <sup>1</sup>                | no                  | 6/8/25            | 0.99                                              | NTU                      | n/a  | 5 (TT)                              | Soil runoff                                                                                                                                              |
| Turbidity <sup>1</sup>                | no                  | 2025              | 100%<1.0                                          | NTU                      | n/a  | 95% of samples<br><1.0 (TT)         | Soil runoff                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>         |                     |                   |                                                   |                          |      |                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Copper                                | no                  | 2023              | 0.165 <sup>2</sup><br>ND-0.18 <sup>3</sup>        | mg/L                     | 1.3  | 1.3 (AL)                            | Corrosion of household plumbing systems.                                                                                                                 |
| Lead                                  | no                  | 2023              | 0.0048 <sup>2</sup><br>ND-<br>0.0055 <sup>3</sup> | mg/L                     | 0    | .015 (AL)                           | Corrosion of household plumbing systems.                                                                                                                 |
| Nitrate                               | no                  | 2025              | 0.3                                               | mg/l                     | 10   | 10 (MCL)                            | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                                                                              |
| Chloride                              | no                  | 2019              | 18                                                | mg/l                     | n/a  | 250 (MCL)                           | Naturally occurring or indicative of Road Salt Contamination.                                                                                            |
| Sodium                                | no                  | 2025              | 15                                                | mg/l                     | n/a  | See Note 6                          | Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.                                                                                           |
| <b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b> |                     |                   |                                                   |                          |      |                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)         | No                  | 2025              | 0.0                                               | ng/l                     | n/a  | 10 (MCL)                            | Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.                                                             |
| Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)  | No                  | 2025              | 0.0                                               | ng/l                     | n/a  | 10 (MCL)                            | Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.                                                             |
| <b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>        |                     |                   |                                                   |                          |      |                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Total Trihalomethanes                 | No                  | 2025              | 80.0 <sup>4</sup><br>60.9–99.8 <sup>5</sup>       | ug/l                     | n/a  | 80                                  | 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                      | No                  | 2025              | 8.5 <sup>4</sup><br>0.0 – 25.6 <sup>5</sup>       | ug/l                     | n/a  | 60                                  | By-product of drinking water chlorination                                                                                                                |

**Notes:**

- 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 turbidity measurement for the year (0.99 NTU) occurred on 3/7/2025 & 6/8/2025. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 1.0 NTU. During 2025, our turbidity did not exceed 1.0 NTU. All other levels recorded were within the acceptable range. We did not have a Treatment Technique violation for turbidity in 2025.
- 2 The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the average between the first and second highest value.
- 3 The level presented represents a range of the lead and copper samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 5 test sites. The action level for copper was exceeded on 1 test site.
- 4 The value represents the highest Locational Running Annual Average of the samples collected.
- 5 The values represent the range of the samples collected.
- 6 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.

**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.

**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).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Nanograms per liter (ng/L)** corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

EPA Test Method 533 is used to measure PFOA and PFOS which are regulated perfluoroalkyl analytes with an MCL level of 10 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or 10 parts of liquid per 1 trillion parts of liquid. As part of EPA Test Method 533 a total of 25 analytes are also measured as part of that test. Unregulated perfluoroalkyl analytes that were found in our water samples and had detectable levels are shown in the Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances table provided below.

| Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances                       |                    |                |                |                  |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| MCL level for each Unregulated PFAS Substance = 50,000 ng/L |                    |                |                |                  |                                              |
| Contaminant                                                 | Violation (Yes/No) | Date of Sample | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCGL or Health Advisory Level <sup>1,2</sup> |
| Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)                               | No                 | 2025           | 3.51           | ng/L             | NA                                           |
| Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHPA)                             | No                 | 2025           | 0.0            | ng/L             | NA                                           |
| Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHXS)                       | No                 | 2025           | 0.0            | ng/L             | NA                                           |
| Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPEA)                             | No                 | 2025           | 0.0            | ng/L             | NA                                           |

1 USEPA Health Advisory Levels identify the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water at which adverse health effects and/or aesthetic effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations. Health Advisory Levels are not to be construed as legally enforceable federal standards and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

2 All perfluoroalkyl substances, besides PFOA and PFOS, are considered Unspecified Organic Contaminants (UOC) which have a MCL = 50,000 ng/L.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the Table of Detected Contaminants, our system did not have any Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations during 2025.

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. Even though lead levels were below the action level, we are required to provide the following information: 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 Town of Essex 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 Tina Gardner at (518) 534-8168. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

Our system was in compliance with all applicable New York 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 Essex Town Office.

### **INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

The **Town of Essex** recently completed a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) for the **Essex Water District** and submitted it to the NYS Department of Health on December 26, 2025. The LSLI is an ongoing effort and will be updated annually. Our system has a total of 177 active service connections. We have identified all service lines in our distribution system. In 2024 we found one service line that was lead that was replaced with copper in 2025. We currently have 15 galvanized service line that are required to be replaced.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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).

### **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. 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.