

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024***

***System Name Village of Watkins Glen***

***System Address 406 Steuben st Watkins Glen, NY***

***(Public Water Supply Watkins Glen NY ID# 4801188, Town of Reading #1,3 ID#NY4801186 & Town of Reading ID#4830034 and Town of Dix ID#4830037)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Watkins Glen, Town of Reading and the Town of Dix 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 Meghan Fox, Water Department Supervisor, 607-742-4915. 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. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 5pm at 303 N Franklin. The Town of Dix board meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 700 pm at 2266 County Route 17 and the Town of Reading meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 730pm at 3914 Route 28.

### **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 serves 1829 people and 1610 service connection. Our water source is from Seneca Lake, the source type is surface water, which is located near Salt Point RD. Our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is collected at the lake and pumped to the filtration plant located on Steuben Street. It is then put through the filtering process that includes treatment with Alum and disinfection with Chlorine. The water is then put through flocculation then filtration that include four reinforced concrete filter cells each with a filter area of 100 square feet designed for an approved filtration rate of 3 gallons per minute per square foot. Each filter cell contains thirty inches of dual media comprised of eighteen inches of anthracite and twelve inches of sand.

### **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 Department of Health-Hornell office) at (607-324-8371)

**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
<b>Turbidity *1</b>	No	Daily	Avg .039 Range .03 - .09	NTU	NA	AL= .3 NTU	Soil run-off
Chlorine Watkins Glen distribution system	No	5 / week	Avg 0.66 Range .28-1.41	Mg/l	MRDLG = 4.00	MRDL= 4.00	Added for disinfection
Chlorine Watkins Glen (entry point)	No	Daily	Avg: 1.45 Range: 1.1-1.81	Mg/l	MRDLG = 4.00	MRDL = 4.00	Added for Disinfection
Chlorine = Cl2							
CL2 Reading 1-3	No	Weekly	Avg: .09 Range .34-1.07	Mg/l	MRDLG = 4.00	MRDL = 4.00	Added for Disinfection
CL2 Reading 2	No	Weekly	Avg: 0.5 Range: .19-.68	Mg/l	MRDLG = 4.00	MRDL = 4.00	Added for Disinfection
Business WGI CL2 Town of Dix Distribution system	No	Daily	Avg: 0.72 Avg: 0.44 Range: .13-1.84	Mg/l	MRDLG = 4.00	MRDL = 4.00	Added for Disinfection
<b>Barium</b>	No	11/5/2024	.269	Mg/L	2000	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Village of Watkins Glen, Town of Reading &amp; Dix Copper</b> *2	No	6/22	Highest .0914 Avg.=0.062 Range .009-.0914	MG/L	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Village of Watkins Glen, Town of Reading &amp; Dix Lead</b> *3	No	6/22	Highest .0016 AVG. .001 Range 0.001-.0016	MG/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Village of Watkins Glen TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]</b> *6	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg.= 50.15 Range 44-63.6	Ug/L	0	MCL=80 .08	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<b>Town of Dix TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] *6</b>	yes	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg.=93.9 5 Range 65.7-127	Ug/L	0	MCL=80 .08	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Town of Reading #1 TTHM [ Total trihalomethanes] *6</b>	NO	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg. 59.5 Range 56.3-70.1	Ug/l	0	MCL=80 .08	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Perflurohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)</b>	No	5/09/24	<1.88 Not detected	Ug/l	n/a	n/a	Released from flourotelomer-based product manufacturing or disposal locations.
<b>microcystin</b>	No				n/a	n/a	Blue green algae
<b>Perflurooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>	No	5/09/24	<1.88	Ng/l	n/a	10 ng/L	Released from manufacturing sites, industrial use, fire/training areas, and industrial or municipal sites where products are disposed of or applied.
<b>Town of Reading #2 TTHM [Total trihalomethanes *6]</b>	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg. 62.23 Range 50.2-72.8	Ug/l	0	MCL=80 .08	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Town of Reading #1 HAA [Total haloacetic acids]</b>	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg. 19.35 Range 15.8-27.5	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Town of Reading #2 HAA [Total haloacetic acids]</b>	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg. 22.38 Range 15.7-33.6	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Nitrate</b>	No	11/5/20	.05	Mg/l	10	MCL= 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Sodium</b>	No	24	71.5	Mg/l			
<b>Chloride</b>	No	4/11/24 4/11/24	119	Mg/l	250	MCL = 250	
<b>Village of Watkins Glen HAAs [Total Haloacetic Acids]</b>	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg.= 21.3 Range 16.1-30	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-Product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Town of Dix HAAs [Total Haloacetic Acids]</b>	No	2/08 5/09 8/13 11/14	Avg.=23.6 5 Range 17-28.3	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-Product of drinking water chlorination.

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 single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 08/20/2024 (0.9 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Although 08/20/2024 was the month when we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 copper values detected at your water system. In

this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the Village of Watkins Glen Town of Reading & Dix water systems value .0723 Mg/l, .0914 Mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the (10) samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at two of the 10 sites tested.

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

5. Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA's – mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)

6. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's - chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)

7. The State considers 50 pCi/L to be level of concern for beta particles. If beta particles are detected above 50pCi/l, the water supplier must determine the actual radioactive constituents present in the present in the water to calculate the dose exposure level in mrem/year, and must report both the detected level and MCL as mrem/year.

8. Arsenic: NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

9. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## 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.

**Level 1 Assessment**: A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment**: A Level 2 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l)**: Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picograms per liter (pg/l)**: Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)**: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)**: A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

In summary, the annual water quality report contains information and analyses of the water quality that is produced by the Village of Watkins Glen Water Treatment Plant. Water production is monitored and real time adjustments are made. As per Department of Health

guidelines, daily turbidity, chlorine and PH levels are recorded and adjustments are made as needed. Bacteria samples are tested monthly, TTHM and HAA5 are tested quarterly and Lead and Copper tests are performed every 3 years. (Latest taken in 2022) The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year within the Town of Dix, during the fourth quarter of 2024, our system violated the maximum contaminant level of 80 ug/L for Total Trihalomethanes. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We are in the process of making treatment upgrades and working on our flushing program to address this issue.

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 Village of Watkins Glen* 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 Village of Watkins Glen*, 607-742-4915. 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>.

#### Nitrate

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, but we have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. Although nitrate was detected below the MCL, it was detected at .0541 which is greater than one-half of the MCL. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on nitrate in drinking water:

“Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.”

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

We are 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. In 2024 our system was in compliance with applicable standards.

### **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 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).

## **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 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 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.