

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Downsville Water District
PO Box 554, Downsville, NY 13755
Public Water Supply ID#NY1200258

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Downsville Water District, 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, we conducted tests for over 78 contaminants. We detected 7 of those contaminants and none of these levels were over the regulatory level. 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 Town of Colchester Supervisor Arthur Merrill at (607)363-7906 or Downsville Water Clerk Allison Gill at (607)363-7169. 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 the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at 5:00 PM in the Town of Colchester's Town Hall, located at 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, 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 number 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 600 people through 230 service connections. Our water source are two springs which are located on State Hwy 206 north of Downsville. The water district owns the water rights to these lands and restricts any activity that could contaminate them. As of November 20, 2020 the spring water is run through our filtration plant located at 222 Tub Mill Road. Water from the springs is treated with soda ash, sodium hypochlorite (chlorine), for disinfection to protect against microbial contamination and with zinc orthophosphate, for corrosion control treatment to reduce the levels of lead and copper at our customer's taps. The well located at 15602 State Hwy 30 is our backup source of water. Water from this well is treated with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine), for disinfection to protect against microbial contamination and with zinc orthophosphate, for corrosion control treatment to reduce the levels of lead and copper at our customer's taps.

In 2024, we entered into contract with Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. for engineering and design work for the TC1-G-2024 NYCDEP Waterline Extension Project. On October 29, 2024, we awarded the bid to R.B. Robinson Contracting Inc. and NYSDOH approved our contract plans and documents. R.B. Robinson completed the contract in full by the December 2024 deadline and will revisit the site to plant grass and finish cleanup of the area once the Spring months get here and winter is over.

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 NYS Department of Health, Oneonta District Office at 607-432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) 3	NO	Every 4 months in 2024	5.30 Range: 2.03-7.97	UG/L	n/a	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)3	NO	Every 4 months in 2024	2.30 Range: 1.73 -2.61	UG/L	n/a	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Nitrate (Springs) (Well)	NO	10/3/24	1.77 0.878	MG/L	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (Springs)	NO	10/4/24	0.0071	MG/L	n/a	MCL=0.1	Naturally Occurring
Barium	NO	10/4/24	0.0231	MG/L	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead ¹	NO	9/22/24	90 th % = 1.5 Range ND – 1.9	UG/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ²	NO	9/22/24	90 th %=0.461 Range: 0.0705-0.77	MG/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

¹ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at none of the 10 sites tested

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, ten samples were collected at your water system on 10/8/24 and the 90th percentile value was third highest results and the action level is 1.3. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the ten sites tested in October.

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

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.

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).

Not Applicable (N/A)

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): A measure of the radioactivity of the water.

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 New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded in one of the samples collected. We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. Downsview 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, our system was following applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

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).

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. 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.