Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Village of Saranac Lake Water System
39 Main St, 2nd Floor, Suite 9, Saranac Lake, New York
(Public Water Supply ID#1600011)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Saranac Lake 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. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We are proud to report that our water 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 **Mr. Dustin Martin, DPW Superintendent, at (518) 891-4160 or Mr. David Lewis Chief Water/Wastewater Operator 518-891-3037**. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village meetings that are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 PM at the Village Office. For up to date information regarding water main breaks, boil water orders or other information regarding the water system, please sign up for our notification system on the Village website at https://saranaclakeny.gov/. Scroll to the bottom of the page to subscribe for notifications and complete the required information to receive the notifications.

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 and the EPA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water supply system consists of two 20" diameter drilled wells, each approximately 150' deep and each capable of producing 3000 gpm. The water is pumped to the treatment plant where it is disinfected with chlorine solution and treated with a zinc orthophosphate corrosion control additive and soda ash to adjust the pH of the water. There are two finished water storage tanks; a 2-million-gallon storage tank and a 1.15-million-gallon storage tank. There were no water usage restrictions during 2024.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 4,887 individuals through 2346 service connections. The amount of water produced in 2024 was 238,670,000 gallons with an average of 641,000 gallons per day. The maximum day water use was on February 5th and was 953,000 gallons. The amount of water that was lost from the system (treated, but not delivered) due to flushing of water mains, snow making, fire demand, and leaks was 112,990,504 gallons. Last year water customers paid $10.7526 per 1000 gallons.

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, including per- and poly fluorinated compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in our 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, is 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 Saranac Lake District Office of the New York State Health Department at (518) 891-1800. Please see the Table of Detected Contaminants below for information on contaminants that were detected in our water. All contaminants were below MCL values.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha	No	2022	0.028	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 & 228	No	2022	0.958	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	2022	1.2	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits & man-made emissions.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	2022	0.007	mg/l	2	2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	2023	0.60[2] 0.19 – 0.63[3]	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	2023	0.0011[2] ND–0.0033[3]	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	No	2024	0.32	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	No	2019	0.5	ug/L	n/a	10 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass &electronics production wastes.
Antimony	No	2019	0.5	ug/L	0.006	6 (MCL)	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Odor	No	2019	1	Unit	n/a	3 (MCL)	Natural sources; Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste
Zinc	No	2019	0.194	mg/L	n/a	5 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of landfill leachate
Sulfate	No	2019	42.8	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	2019	80.8	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	2024	53	mg/L	n/a	See Note 5	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	No	2024	1.32	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluoroctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	No	2024	1.56	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	2024	10.3 – 14.4[4]	ug/l	n/a	80 (MCL)	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	2024	3.7 – 4.6[4]	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Notes:

2 – We collected 1 round of 20 lead & copper samples in 2023. The level presented represents the highest 90th percentile of the 20 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 your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 2nd highest value. There were no sample results that were greater then the Action Level Exceedance value.

3 – The levels presented represent the range of the 20 samples collected. The action level for copper were not exceeded at any site. The action level for lead was exceeded at one site.

4 – The results show the range of concentrations at two sampling locations in the distribution system.

5 - 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.

Nanograms per liter (ng/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (ppt)

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).

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

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 analyzed 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[1,2]**
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)	No	2024	0.855	ng/L	2,000
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHXS)	No	2024	0.63	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 an MCL = 50,000 ng/L.

What does this information mean?
As you can see by the Table of Detected Contaminants, 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. We did not exceed the Action Levels for lead or copper. We are required to provide the following information for lead:

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 Village of Saranac Lake 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 the Village of Saranac Lake Water Department – Dave Lewis at (518) 891-3037. 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?
We are in full compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY
The Village of Saranac Lake recently completed a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) and submitted it to the NYS Department of Health on October 16, 2024, as required. 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 service line inventory and has made it publicly accessible on our website at https://saranaclakeny.gov/water-sewer/. Our distribution system contains 10 lead service lines and 25 galvanized service lines requiring replacement.

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).

Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYS Dept. of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information.
The source water assessment for the drilled wells has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer however the overlying soils will provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that our water supply is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbiological contamination. The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.

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.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and 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, our way of life and our children's future. Please call if you have questions.