2025 Village of Ontonagon
Annual Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?
Last year all tap water samples taken met U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and State of Michigan drinking water health standards. This report is a snap shot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA and State of Michigan standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where does my water come from?
The Ontonagon Regional Water System gets its water from Lake Superior through an intake tunnel just out from the mouth of the Big Iron River. From here the water is pumped to the water treatment plant located at the White Pine mine site. This surface water is being treated with a chemical called alum to help remove particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Soda ash controls corrosion in the water that could cause lead or copper to leach out of pipes. The water flows through slow mixing chambers, and then goes to sedimentation basins which allow larger particles to settle out of the water. Next the sand filters remove smaller particles. Finally, Chlorine is added as a disinfectant. The water flows to a clearwell storage tank and is ready to enter the distribution system.

A source water assessment was completed by the Department of Environmental Quality in 2003. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the susceptibility of our source water to potential contamination. The Ontonagon Regional Water Supply source water has been determined to have moderately high susceptibility, based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant source. If you would like to know more about the report please contact Jeremy Graff at the water plant (906) 885-5631.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Some people maybe more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lesson the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

A new requirement of the consumer confidence report is to list the number and type of service lines in our distribution system.

Known lead service lines:	0
Unknown material service lines:	0
Total service lines:	1445

The following informational statement about lead in drinking water is required for all community water systems to include in their Consumer Confidence Reports. It does not reflect any changes to your water quality.

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 part used in service lines and home plumbing. Ontonagon water service 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 families 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 at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Ontonagon water service at 906-885-5631 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://epa.gov/safewater/lead

Administrative Consent Order

The Village is currently under an administrative consent order (ACO)from the State of Michigan Department of Environment,Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The significant deficiency noted in the ACO is the condition of the White Pine water tower. The tower needs to be replaced or repaired. There were oversized/torn vent and overflow screens that have been repaired. There needs to be adequate safety rails added to access the roof hatch. The inspection report also recommends actions related to the foundation, structural steel, coatings, corrosion protection, and appurtenances to insure the integrity of the tank. The village is required to submit annual reports on the status of the progress made towards repairing or replacing the tank. The village must complete annual in house inspections of the tank and have a professional inspection every 3 years until repairs are completed. Repairs or replacement of the White Pine water tower must be completed by December 31, 2028.

If you have any questions about the quality of your water or the data in this report, please call Jeremy Graff at the water filtration plant at (906) 885-5631. This report will not be mailed to individual water customers. If you would like a personal copy, please contact the water plant or village office (906) 884-2305.

The Ontonagon Village Council meets at 5:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each Month. Meetings are held at the village office at 315 Quartz Street. Please feel free to come and participate. (906) 884-2305

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in 2025. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some is more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) : The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCGL's allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) : The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCGLs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) : This is the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MDRLG) : This is the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs don't reflect the benefit of disinfection for controlling microbiological contaminants.
- N/A : Not applicable N/D : Not detected at testing limit ppb : Parts per billion ppm : Parts per million pCi/L : Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) TT : Treatment Technique is a specific treatment method required by EPA instead of creating a MCL R.A.A : Running Annual Average, this average can include data from the previous years fourth quarter NTU: a measurement of turbidity
- Action Level : The concentratiion of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements for us to comply with.

Regulated Contaminant	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Violation Yes/No**	**Typical source of Contaminant**
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	Range 0.2 - 2.1 R.A.A. 0.71	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	10	2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	Range 13 - 57 R.A.A 29.5	2025 Quarterly	No	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	Range 18 - 63 R.A.A 40.8	2025 Quarterly	No	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection

Radioactive Contaminantss	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Typical souece of contamination**	**Health Effects**
Combined Radium 226-228	5	0	1.11	2025	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer

Microbiological Contaminants	Filter confluence sample point	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical source of contamination
Turbidity	TT = 1 NTU maximum	Maximum 0.07 NTU	2025	No	Soil runoff
	TT = 95% of samples must be <= 0.3 NTU	100% of samples were <= 0.3 NTU	2025	No	

Unregulated Contaminates	Level detected	Sample Date	Typical source of contamination
Calcium (ppm)	Range 15-16.5 Avg. 16.1	2025	
Chloride (ppm)	Range 6 -8.6 Avg. 7.9	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	12	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	Range 10.1-16 Avg. 12.8	2025	
Magnesium (ppm)	2.8	2025	

- unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards, monitoring helps determine if new regulations are needed.

Contaminate subject to AL	Action Level	90% of samples <= to this level	Sample Date	Number of samples above AL	Typical source of contamination
Lead (ppb)	12	0 Range 0.0 - 2.0	2025	0	lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	1300	0 Range 0 - 0.1	2025	0	corrosion of household plumbing