Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Village of Sackets Harbor Water Treatment Plant
Ambrose Street, Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
(Public Water Supply ID# 2202343)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Sackets Harbor 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, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system has not violated 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 **The Development Authority of the North Country, at 315-661-3210**. 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 on the second Tuesday of the month at 6: 30 pm in the village offices.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or 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 the tap water is safe to drink, NYS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) have established regulatory limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection as tap water for public health.

Our water system serves 1250 people through 962 service connections within the Village of Sackets Harbor. We also supply water for the Town of Hounsfield Water District. Our water source is surface water drawn from Lake Ontario, which is located at the end of Ambrose Street. The water is pumped from Lake Ontario through micro filters (fiber membranes), into a clear well where chlorine contact time is met. It is then pumped from the clear well to two elevated water storage tanks, prior to distribution.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

In accordance with New York State requirements, the Village of Sackets Harbor regularly tests drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include Total Coliform, Ecoli, Inorganic Compounds, Nitrate, Lead & Copper, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic acids (HAA5s), Synthetic Organic Compounds (which include herbicides, pesticides etc.) and radiological contaminants. NYS regulations allow the Town to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The table presented below depicts the most recent values for the contaminants that were detected in the drinking water supply. None of the compounds analyzed were detected in drinking water above the NYS allowable levels. 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. By Calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health at (315) 785-2277, you can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Average Level Detected (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity							
Turbidity[1]	No	Daily	100% ≤0.3	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of all samples ≤ 0.3	Soil runoff
Turbidity[1]	No	06/30/23	0.15	NTU	N/A	TT ≤ 0.3	Soil runoff
Distribution System Turbidity[2]	No	08/18/23	0.41	NTU	N/A	MCL = 5	Soil runoff
Inorganics							
Nitrate	No	08/08/23	0.116	mg/l	10	MCL=10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	Daily 2023	0.71 (0.51-1.00)	mg/l	N/A	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	7/31/23-9/12/23	0.045[3] (0.0034-0.046)	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservative
Lead	No	7/31/23-9/12/23	1.2[4] (ND-2.0)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	6/21/21	0.0208	mg/l	2.0	MCL=2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	2023/ quarterly	55.1[5] (32.4-98.1)	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Average Level Detected (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (Haa5'S)	No	2023/ quarterly	27.8[5] (10.8-52.2)	ug/l	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Radiological							
Gross Alpha	No	12/05/23	-0.760	pCi/L	N/A	15[6]	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226	No	12/05/23	0.0966	pCi/L	N/A	5[6]	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	No	12/05/23	0.295	pCi/L	N/A	5[6]	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organics							
Perfluoro-octanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	10/17/23	2.03	ng/l	N/A	MCL=10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
Perfluoro-octane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	No	10/17/23	2.47	ng/l	N/A	MCL=10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
Additional Detected Analytes[7]							
Perfluoro-butanoic Acid (PFBA)	No	10/17/23	5.01	ng/l	N/A	MCL=50,000	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications

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 single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 06/30/23 (0.15 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.

[2] Distribution Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water found in the distribution system. We monitor it as a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest monthly distribution turbidity measurement detected during the year (.41 NTU) occurred in August of 2023. This value is below the State's maximum contaminant level (5 NTU).

[3] 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 second highest value (0.037mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

[4] 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 lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (1.2 ug/l). The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

[5] This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from the data collected.

[6] A violation occurs when a sample or annual average of samples at any sampling location exceeds the MCL

[7] Due to the Emerging Contaminant regulation, sampling of PFOA and PFOS is required. Due to a detection of (PFOA or PFOS), additional sampling required all analytics within the method be reported, in accordance with footnote 3 of Table 9C, Subpart 5-1. This expanded analysis detected Perfuorobutanoic Acid (PFBA).

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.

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) or (mcg/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 in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

Non Applicable (N/A): Does not apply.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

Laboratory results indicate that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by NYS.

IS MY WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although the drinking water met or exceeded NYS and Federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons 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 and Center for Disease Control (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).

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2023 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within +/- 0.30 mg/l of the target level for 100% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

The Village's system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future water demand. However, 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 treating and operating the water system.
- 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.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks; just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons per day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- 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 your bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons per day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing the Village of Sackets Harbor to provide your family with quality drinking water again this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply the Village sometimes needs 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. The Town asks that all customers help to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.