Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023

Unity Acres
P.O. Box 153 Orwell, NY 13426
Public Water Supply ID # NY3730129

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Unity Acres will be issuing an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water awareness and 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 did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standards. 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 Steven Dickhout, water operator. We want you to be informed about your drinking water, and we will be available to discuss any drinking water issues in person.

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 New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS DOH and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

Our water system serves approximately 35 people through 6 service connections. The system's water source consists of one 6-inch diameter drilled well with a depth of 41 feet. There is also an additional 8-inch diameter drilled well on site with a depth of 117 feet. The well water is pumped into two 1,000-gallon plastic holding tanks. The water is disinfected with liquid sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) with an injection pump at the pump house prior to distribution.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated by reviewing limited existing mapped data and available information from past sanitary surveys. The State source water assessment provides a susceptibility rating based on the potential risk posed by each possible source of contamination and how easily contaminants could move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessment was completed to provide owners and operators with additional information to help them protect your source waters into the future.

As mentioned above, our water is derived from one well that draws from an unconfined aquifer with an unknown hydraulic conductivity. The source water assessment rated the well as having a high susceptibility to pesticides & nitrates; medium-high susceptibility rating for cations/anions, viruses, halogenated solvents, metals, other industrial organics, and petroleum products due to the location of on-site septic system and land use patterns. No other significant sources of possible contaminants were identified. Please note that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards. County and State Health Departments will use this assessment information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, wellhead protection, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, halo acetic 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 Oswego County Health Department at (315) 349-3557.

Table Of Detected Compounds

Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	MCL, TT, or AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	12/06/22	0.01	mg/L	2mg/L	2mg/L	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper[1]	No	09/28/20	0.195	mg/L	1.3 mg/L	AL = 1.3 mg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead[1]	No	09/28/20	4.5	ug/L	0	AL = 15 ug/L	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate (As Nitrogen)	No	02/09/23	2.14	mg/L	10 mg/L	10mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
PFOS	No	12/6/2022	0.00217	ug/L	NA	1.0 ug/L	Released into the environment from commercial & industrial sources. Hazardous waste sites.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 226	No	3/15/2016	0.083	pCi/L	0pCi/L	5pCi/L[2]	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	No	3/15/2016	0.93	pCi/L	0pCi/L	5pCi/L[2]	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	3/15/2016	0.86	pCi/L	0pCi/L	15pCi/L[3]	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	No	3/15/2016	0.16	pCi/L	0pCi/L	50pCi/L	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions

Notes:

1:Average of 2 samples.

2:MCL is for combined Radium 226 & 228.

3:Gross alpha excludes Radon & Uranium.

DEFINITIONS:

Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm). Or one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb). Or one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – A measure of radioactivity in 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 were detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

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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. Unity Acres 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 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 Steven Dickhout. 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.

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 2023, Unity Acres received violations for not collecting their required lead & copper, disinfection byproducts and Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances and therefore, cannot be certain of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Unity Acres is required to collect samples for lead & copper, disinfection byproducts and Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances in 2024.

DO I NEED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS? IS OUR WATER SAFE FOR EVERYONE?

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). Please note that testing of the water at this system has shown that this water is suitable for drinking water purposes, and contains very low amounts of contaminants and should not pose any health risks.

INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Spanish:
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
French:
Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

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.

CLOSING

In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please review the attached water conservation tips sheet. Please call our office if you have questions.