

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023  
Springwater Public Water System  
8022 South Main Street, Springwater, NY 14560  
Public Water Supply ID#NY2510300*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Springwater public water supply 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level 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 David Sliker, Water Superintendent, Cell # (585) 519-1823. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm at the Springwater Town Hall: 8022 South Main Street, Springwater, NY 14560.

## **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'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 430 people through 159 service connections. Our water sources are groundwater wells: groundwater drawn from two approximately 30-foot deep drilled wells, which are located off of Kellogg Road. Filtration was installed at the water treatment plant in October of 2013. The water is filtered and chlorinated prior to distribution.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. **The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for the 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 assessments provide resources managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned earlier, our water is derived from two wells. The wells draw from an unconfined aquifer with unknown hydraulic conductivity. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium susceptibility to microbial, nitrate, pesticides, solvents, and other contaminants.

The county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us, at the above address and phone number.

## 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 bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and radionuclides. 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 Livingston County Health Department at (585) 243-7280 or (585) 335-1717.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

| Contaminant  | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample    | Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)       | Unit of Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit(MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|------|---------------------------------|---|
| Turbidity <sup>1</sup> Distribution Sample         | No               | 5 days per week   | 0.2                                    | NTU                 | N/A  | 5 NTU                           | Soil Runoff   |
| Turbidity <sup>1</sup> - After Treatment Sample    | No               | Daily             | 0.1                                    | NTU                 | N/A  | 1 NTU (Monthly Avg)             | Soil Runoff   |
| <u>Chlorine Residuals Measured in Distribution</u> |                  |                   |  |                     |      |                                 |   |
| Chlorine Residual                                  | No               | Monthly           | Range 0.21 – 1.45                      | mg/L                | N/A  | MRDL=4.0                        | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| <u>Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs)</u>                  |                  |                   |  |                     |      |                                 |   |
| Nitrate  | No               | 8/2/23            | 1.1                                    | mg/L                | 10   | MCL=10                          | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits   |
| Chloride   | No               | 8/2/23            | 37                                     | mg/L                | N/A  | MCL=250                         | Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.   |
| Sodium   | No               | 8/2/23            | 22                                     | mg/L                | N/A  | N/A                             | Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste.  |
| Barium   | No               | 8/2/23<br>8/14/23 | 0.03<br>0.04                           | mg/L                | 2.0  | MCL=2                           | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes   |
| Nickel   | No               | 8/2/23<br>8/14/23 | ND<br>0.0014                           | mg/l                | N/A  | N/A                             | Byproducts made during industrial processes that use Nickel Catalysts, such as coal gasification, petroleum refining and hydrogenation of fats & oils |
| Lead   | No               | 8/2/23            | 1.65 <sup>3</sup><br>ND - 2            | ug/L                | 0    | AL=15                           | Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits   |
| Copper   | No               | 8/2/23            | 0.076 <sup>3</sup><br>0.023 –<br>0.095 | mg/L                | 0    | AL=1.3                          | Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives   |
| <u>Disinfection Byproducts</u>                     |                  |                   |  |                     |      |                                 |   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) <sup>4</sup>         | No               | 8/8/22            | 28                                     | ug/L                | N/A  | 80                              | By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.  |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)                            | No               | 8/8/22            | 6.2                                    | ug/L                | N/A  | 60                              | By-product of drinking water chlorination   |

- (1) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.
- (2) 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.
- (3) The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the average of the two highest results. The action level for lead or copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- (4) The total of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform must not exceed 80 ug/L.

### **Definitions:**

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value:** The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or a greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

**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).

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no maximum contaminant level 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 are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. The Town of Springwater 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 the 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. 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?**

During 2023, our system was not in compliance with applicable State and Federal drinking water operating and reporting requirements. The disinfection byproducts (DBP) monitoring test was taken at an unapproved location. The monitoring test for disinfection byproducts (DBP) will be taken in 2024 at the approved location.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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. If you have a problem or question concerning your water please contact David Sliker at (585) 519-1823.