

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021*

**HALCOTTSVILLE WATER DISTRICT**  
**BOX 407 Arkville N.Y. 12406**  
**Public Water Supply ID#1200264**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, **HALCOTTSVILLE WATER DISTRICT** 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 source. During the year 2021 we tested for several constituents. Any detects are listed in the table below. We also did monthly coliform sampling and testing and the results proved to be negative or no detect. 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. *While all required tests were taken, some results did not reach the Health Dept. in a timely manner.*

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Robert Payne, 845-663-7982. 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 every second Tuesday of each month at the Town of Middletown Town Hall located at 42339 State Hwy 28, Margaretville, NY 12455 from 6:00pm until all business is completed.

Our water system serves approximately 60 people through 27 service connections. Our water source is ground water from 3 wells which is located on Bragg Hollow Road. The water has chlorine and Carus treatment added at the source prior to distribution.

## **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 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 number 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.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for our system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, it should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate level in our source is not considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated well #1 as

having a medium susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of septic systems and low intensity residential activities within the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from a confined aquifer that likely provides adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our well as being somewhat susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, 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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, 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, might 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 Oneonta District Health Department at (607) 432-3911.

**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.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	11/10/21	.06	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	N	8/24/21	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 2.1	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
	N	11/11/20	7.3(1) Range: 2.6-12				
Copper	N	8/24/21	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 0.158	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
	N	11/11/20	.056 (2) Range .029-.092				

<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs- chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)</b>	N	9/12/19	27.7	Ug/l	N/A	80	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter
<b>Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)</b>	N	9/12/19	11.2	Ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Arsenic</b>	N	11/10/21	8.1 Range 6.3-9.5	Ug/l	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b>	N	9/9/21	0.112	Mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nickel</b>	N	9/9/21	0.0011	Mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally Occurring
<b>Fluoride</b>	N	-12/13/18	0.12	Mg/l	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits, Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

**NOTES:**

- (1) The levels presented represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles of the 2 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 values detected at your water system. In these cases, 4 samples were collected at your water system during each monitoring period and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values are the average of the two highest values (1.8 ug/l in the set collected in June and 7.3 ug/l in the set collected in November).
- (2) The levels presented represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles of the 2 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 values detected at your water system. In these cases, 6 samples were collected at your water system during each monitoring period and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values are the average of the two highest values (.387 mg/l in the set collected in June and .056 mg/l in the set collected in November).

**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 have been detected however these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women infants and young children 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 homes plumbing. The Halcottsville Water District is responsible for providing high quality

drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about the lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

New York State and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## **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 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 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 our office if you have questions.