

**WATER QUALITY REPORT COURTESY OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020*  
*Village of Saranac Lake Water System*  
*39 Main St, 2nd Floor, Suite 9, Saranac Lake, New York*  
*(Public Water Supply ID#1600011)*

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Saranac Lake 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. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected some of those contaminants, and only found one of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at that time, our water exceeded a drinking water standard and we are working to rectify the problem by modifying our corrosion control process. 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 Mr. Dustin Martin, DPW Superintendent, at (518) 891-4160. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village meetings that are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 PM at the Village Office.

**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 and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The water supply system consists of two 20" diameter drilled wells, each approximately 150' deep and each capable of producing 3000gpm. The water is pumped to the treatment plant where it is disinfected with chlorine solution and treated with an orthophosphate corrosion control additive and soda ash also for corrosion control. There are two finished water storage tanks; a 2-million-gallon storage tank and a 1.15-million-gallon storage tank. There were no water usage restrictions during 2019.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves approximately 5800 individuals through 2300 service connections. The amount of water produced in 2020 was 216 million gallons with an average of 584,000 gallons per day. The maximum day water use was on June 30, 2020 and was 1,504,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to the customer was 129 million gallons with the remainder used for hydrant flushing, firefighting and leakage. Last year water customers paid \$9.08 per 1000 gallons from January through June and then rates were increase to \$9.8471 per 1000 gallons from July through December.

**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, haloacetic 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, is 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 Saranac Lake District Office of the New York State Health Department at (518) 891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha	No	2013	0	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 & 228	No	2013	0	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	2013	1.2	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits & man-made emissions.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	No	2019	0.007	mg/l	2	2(MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	2020	0.56 <sup>2</sup> 0.065 – 0.063 <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	2020	0.0013 <sup>2</sup> ND-0.016 <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	No	2020	0.565	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Iron + Manganese	No	2019	0.5	mg/L	0.5	0.5 (MCL)	Iron – naturally occurring; Manganese – naturally occurring and indicative of landfill leachate
Arsenic	No	2019	0.0005	mg/L	n/a	0.01	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Antimony	No	2019	0.0005	mg/L	0.006	0.006	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Odor	No	2019	1	Unit	n/a	3	Natural sources; Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste
Color	No	2019	15	Units	n/a	15	Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter; the presence of metals such as copper, iron and manganese;
Zinc	No	2019	0.194	mg/L	n/a	5	Naturally occurring or indicative of landfill leachate
Sulfate	No	2019	42.8	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	2019	80.8	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	2020	27- 47	mg/L	n/a	See Note 5	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	2020	13.5 - 19 <sup>4</sup>	ug/l	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	No	2020	5.9 - 7.73.6 <sup>4</sup>	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Notes:**

- 2 – We collected 1 round of 20 lead & copper samples last year. The level presented represents the highest 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 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 this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest value.
- 3 – The levels presented represent the range of the 20 samples collected. The action level for copper were not exceeded at any site. The action level for lead was exceeded at one site.
- 4 – The results show the range of concentrations at two sampling locations in the distribution system.
- 5 - 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.

**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.
- 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).
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the 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 have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

We are in full compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

**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).

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 home's plumbing. The Village of Saranac Lake 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 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>.

### **Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS Dept. of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The source water assessment for the drilled wells has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer however the overlying soils will provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that our water supply is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbiological contamination. The health department 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, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us as noted below.

### **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 you and 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 if you have questions.