Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021

Town of DeKalb
St. Lawrence County, NY
(Public Water Supply ID # NY4430115)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with New York State (NYS) regulations, the Town of DeKalb issues an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise customer understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect drinking water sources. Last year DeKalb's tap water met all State drinking water health standards and the Town did not violate any maximum contaminant levels or any other water quality standards. This report includes details about where the Town's water comes from, what the water contains, and how the water compares to NYS standards. As your water supplier, the Town of DeKalb wants customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend one of the regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of DeKalb Municipal Offices located at 2907 Cty RT 17. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please direct your question to (315) 347-3331.

WHERE DOES MY 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 animal 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 that 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 that must provide the same protection as tap water for public health.

The Town of DeKalb obtains water from the Town of Hermon. The Town's water is supplied by four springs located on municipally owned property approximately one mile north of the former village. Three of the four springs are fed by groundwater. The fourth spring appears to function as a collection basin for the first three. From the fourth spring, the water flows by gravity through a transmission main into a 30,000-gallon clear well where it is disinfected before distribution within the Town of Hermon. A copy of the Town's Annual Water Quality Report is attached. From there, it is piped to a location outside of the Town where it is disinfected again before it travels to the 180,000-gallon water storage tank in the Town of DeKalb. The Town has the capability of serving approximately 500 households. At this time, approximately 186 households or 492 people are served by the water system.

The NYSDOH has evaluated the Public Water Supply's (PWS) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

The SWAP rating for the Town of DeKalb's water supply is medium to high sensitivity for all contaminant types. Based on analysis of available information, the four spring sources are noted as having a medium susceptibility to protozoan and pesticide contamination. The land surrounding the springs is comprised of pasture and low cropland covers. No permitted wastewater discharges or other regulated facilities have been identified in the assessment area.

Springs, as a source of drinking water, have a higher risk of being contaminated than groundwater. The higher risk of contamination is due to large diameter pathogens found in surface water. Surface water does not travel through enough fine-grained soil to provide the same level of natural filtration as groundwater. Springs have a higher susceptibility to these contaminants because they generally collect water from shallower depths and this water has not spent as much time in the ground to provide as high a level of natural filtration as groundwater. NYSDOH requires the Village of Hermon to complete analytical testing to determine if the groundwater is affected by surface water. This program is referred to as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI). To date, analytical results have shown that the water is not being affected by surface water.

ARE THERE COMTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

In accordance with New York State requirements, the Town of DeKalb regularly tests drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include Total Coliform, E-Coli, Inorganic compounds, Nitrate, Nitrite, Lead & Copper, Volatile Organic Compounds, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic acids (HAA5s), and Synthetic Organic Compounds. 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 tables 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) 386-1040, you can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

Microbiological

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	No	2021	0	N/A	N/A	MCL=2 or more positive samples in 1 month[1]	Naturally Present in the environment.

[1] A violation occurs at systems collecting 40 or more samples per month when more than 5% of the total coliform samples are positive. A violation occurs at systems collecting less than 40 samples per month when two or more samples are total coliform positive.

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	8/18/21	15.5	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 80 ug/l Based on a running annual average.	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-HAA5	NO	8/18/21	5.3	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 60ug/l Based on a running annual average.	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganics

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	NO	05/2014	1.5	mg/l	10	MCL= 10mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	NO	8/3/2020	0.24 [2] (.094-.30)	mg/l	1.3	AL= 1.3[2]	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	NO	8/3/2020	.0109[3] (<0.0010-.012)	mg/l	0	AL=15[3]	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

[2] The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (0.24mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

[3] The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. The action level 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).

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest of a 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 margin of safety.
Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Non-Detectable (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present at levels that can be detected by the analysis being performed.
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?
The Town of DeKalb water system had no violations in 2021. 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 2021, the Town of DeKalb 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).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

The Town'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 Town of DeKalb to provide your family with quality drinking water again this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply the Town 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.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021
Town of Hermon
St. Lawrence County, New York
(Public Water Supply ID#4404386)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, we 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. 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 Christopher Stransky, Water Superintendent at (315) 347-3606. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00p.m. at the Town 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 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. Inquires should be directed to the local office of the State Health Department who's telephone number is (315) 386 - 1040.

The Town of Hermon obtains its water from four springs located on Town owned property approximately one mile north of the Town. All four springs are fed by groundwater. The fourth spring also functions as a collection basin for the first three. From the spring, the water flows by gravity through a transmission main into a 10,000 gallon clear well where it is disinfected prior to distribution. Our water system serves 500 individuals through 213 service connections.

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, 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.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper	No	7/11/19	0.014	mg/L	1.3	0.013 – 0.071 AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	7/11/19	0.0029	mg/L	0	<0.001 – 0.0035 AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	5/5/21	2.0	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	7/16/19	<0.5	Ug/l	2	2 (MCL)	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Tolal TTHM's	No	9/4/19	0.0028	mg/l	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Notes:

1 During 2019, five samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper. The level presented represents the average of the two highest samples. Copper was not detected above the action level at any of the sites tested. Lead was not detected above the action level at any of the test sites.

2 During 2022, We will be testing for Lead and Copper, Radiological, Primary Inorganic Chemicals, Disinfection Byproducts, Principal Organic Chemicals, PFOA, PFOS, 1,4 Dioxane and Synthetic Organic Chemicals.

3 Monthly, a water sample is collected and sent to a Lab to check for Total Coliform

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.
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.
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).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
Micrograms per liter (mcg/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 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?

During 2021, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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).

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.

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 springs. 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 inorganic contaminants were detected in our water, 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 from natural, residential, agricultural, and/or industrial sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from several springs. The source water assessment has rated these springs as having a medium to high sensitivity rating for all contaminant types. Springs typically collect water from shallow depths that has not spent much time moving through the ground. On-going spring recharge area protection programs are the best way to identify, understand, manage, and control water quality programs. Please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

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.