

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022*  
*Village of Speculator Water System*  
*PO Box 396*  
*Speculator NY 12164*  
*Public Water Supply ID #NY2004501*

**Introduction**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Village of Speculator Water System 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 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 water utility, please contact Crystal O'Brien, Clerk /Treasurer for account questions at 548-7354 and Ed Scharpou for system operations questions at 548-5441.

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The Village Board of Trustees meets on the first and third Monday of each month at the Village Hall at 2875 State Route 8. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. In the event of a legal holiday the meetings are held on Tuesday of the same week.

**Where does our water come from?**

In general, the sources of water (both tap 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 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 approximately 408 year-round people through 325 service connections. Our source is two drilled wells. Our water is disinfected with chlorine before it enters the distribution system. The NYS Dept. of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer and overlying soils are not known to 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.

**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 contaminants, nitrate, gross alpha, lead and copper, volatile organic contaminants 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.

During 2021, we started to sample our drinking water for the per- and polyfluorinated compounds PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane. We collected samples during the first and second quarter of 2021 and the third quarter of 2022 and the results were below the detection limit for all parameters. We will collect PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane samples again during the fourth quarter of 2023.

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 New York State Health Department at (518) 891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Fluoride	No	2020	0.4	mg/L	n/a	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	2020	ND	mg/L	2	2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	2020	0.0614 <sup>1</sup> 0.022-0.062 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	n/a	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	2020	0.0011 <sup>1</sup> ND-0.0014 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	n/a	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	No	2022	0.778	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc	No	2019	0.003	mg/L	n/a	5 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; mining waste
Sodium	No	2022	6.35	mg/L	n/a	See Note 3	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Chloride	No	2019	71.4	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sulfate	No	2019	9.97	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2022	3.4	ug/L	0	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2022	0	ug/L	0	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 226 & 228	No	2017	0.55	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	2017	1.1	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Notes:**

- 1 – During 2020, five samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead or 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 highest and second highest value for both lead and copper. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2 - This level represents the range of results for the 5 sites tested. The action level was not exceeded for lead and copper at any of the test sites.
- 3 – 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.
- 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.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- 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).
- Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers

### **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?**

Last year, our system was in compliance with 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 and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of Speculator 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **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 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**

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. Please call our office if you have questions.