

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Village of Castorland*  
*5185 State Route 410, Castorland NY 13620*  
*(Public Water Supply ID# 2402359)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Village of Castorland, 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. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality 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 **The Development Authority of the North Country, at (315) 661-3210**. 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 held on the second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 PM at the Village Offices.

## **WHERE DOES OUR 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 animals 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 the 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 which must provide the same protection as tap water for public health

Our water system serves approximately 300 people through 106 service connections. Our water source is groundwater wells: groundwater is drawn from 2 drilled wells. Well #1 is 197 ft deep and Well #2 is 210 feet deep. Both wells are located at the Water Treatment Facility on Elm Street. The water is pumped from each well at 40 gallons per minute and is chlorinated prior to distribution.

The NYS DOH has evaluated this public water supplies susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this public water supply. This public water supply provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, pesticides/herbicides, and petroleum products. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of currently permitted and former discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment), and associated agricultural activity in the assessment area. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with New York State requirements, the Village of Castorland regularly tests drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include Total Coliform, Ecoli, Inorganic Compounds, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sodium, Chlorides, Lead & Copper, Volatile Organic Compounds, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic

acids (HAA5s) and Synthetic Organic Compounds (which include herbicides, pesticides etc.) and radiological contaminants. NYS regulations allow the village to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The table 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) 785-2277, you can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

### **TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS**

| <b>Contaminant</b> | <b>Violation Yes/No</b> | <b>Date of Sample</b> | <b>Average Level Detected (Range)</b>  | <b>Unit of Measure</b> | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)</b> | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>   |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| <b>Inorganics</b>  |                         |                       |  |                        |             |   |   |
| Nitrate Well #1    | No                      | 12/14/23              | 3.6                                    | mg/l                   | 10          | MCL=10                                  | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits           |
| Nitrate Well #2    | No                      | 12/12/23              | 3.2                                    |                        |             |   |   |
| Fluoride Well #1   | No                      | 9/25/23               | 2.1                                    | mg/l                   | N/A         | MCL=2.2                                 | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Fluoride Well #2   | No                      | 10/10/23              | 1.73                                   |                        |             |   |   |
| Barium             | No                      | 9/25/23               | 0.115                                  | mg/l                   | 2           | MCL= 2                                  | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits            |
| Lead               | No                      | 9/8/21-9/13/21        | 1.3 <sup>1</sup><br>(ND-2.7)           | ug/l                   | 0           | AL=15                                   | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                  |
| Copper             | No                      | 9/8/21-9/13/21        | 0.0681 <sup>2</sup><br>(0.0181-0.0806) | mg/l                   | 1.3         | AL=1.3                                  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservative |

| Contaminant  | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Average Level Detected (Range) | Unit of Measure | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>   |                  |                |                                |                 |      |                                  |  |
| Haloacetic Acids (Haa5'S)  | No               | 8/18/21        | 13.6                           | ug/l            | N/A  | MCL=60                           | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)   | No               | 8/18/21        | 22.8                           | ug/l            | N/A  | MCL=80                           | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| Notes  |                  |                |                                |                 |      |                                  |  |
| <p><sup>1</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 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, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (1.3 ug/l). The action level for lead 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).</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (0.0681 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.</p> |                  |                |                                |                 |      |                                  |  |

## **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, 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).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion-PPB).

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non Applicable (N/A):** Does not apply.

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

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 2023 the Village system was in compliance with applicable Federal and 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 Village'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 Village to provide you with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply the Village will need to make improvements to the current water system that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements is reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments are necessary in order to address these improvements and to ensure that the system is operating and maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements. 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 any questions.