

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

Au Sable Forks Water District

Town of Jay, NY

PO Box 730, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912-0730

(Public Water Supply ID# 1516260)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the **Town of Jay** issues a report annually 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 did not violate 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 **Paul Mintz at (518) 578-5957**. 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. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

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. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the concentration of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The regulations of the State Health Department and the FDA establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The **Au Sable Forks Water District** serves 900 people through 237 service connections. Your water sources include two new drilled wells located on Grove Road. The water is disinfected with liquid sodium hypochlorite and is pumped into the distribution system. A 360,000-gallon tank provides storage.

The NYS Dept. of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. Although no significant sources of contamination were identified, the source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. 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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds, including PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. Some contaminants, such as nitrate, are tested for annually. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less frequently (such as every three, six or nine years) because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. As a result, some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The table below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking 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. 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 Department of Health at 518-891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganics							
Lead	No	2023	0.0011 ¹ ND - 0.0012 ²	mg/L	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	No	2023	0.14 ¹ ND - 0.28 ²	mg/L	0	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate	No	2024	0.29	mg/l	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	2019	15.0	mg/l	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium	No	2019	6.5	mg/l	n/a	See note 4	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
Sulfate	No	2019	11.0	mg/l	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Radiological Contaminates							
Radium 226 & 228	No	2020	0.0 +/- 0.24	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	2020	0.0 +/- 0.24	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	No	2020	0.86 +/- 0.56	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2024	1.7-7.7 ³	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2024	0-1.3 ³	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

NOTES:

- ¹ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper and lead values detected in your water system. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
- ² The levels represent the range of lead and copper samples collected in our system.
- ³ The levels represent the range of disinfection byproducts collected in our system at two locations.
- ⁴ 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 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).

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): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, the **Au Sable Forks Water District** had no water quality violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were below the level allowed by the state. Even though our system had very low lead levels in 2023, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water: Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Town of Jay is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact **Paul Mintz at (518) 578-5957**. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Last year the **Au Sable Forks Water District** was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements, including the preparation of a lead service line inventory. This inventory is publicly available and can be accessed at the Jay Town Office.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The **Town of Jay** recently completed a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) for the **Au Sable Forks Water District** and submitted it to the NYS Department of Health on October 16, 2024, as required. A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable service lines within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) The Town of Jay prepared a lead service line inventory for the Ausable Forks Water District and has made it publicly accessible at the Jay Town Office. The LSI is an ongoing effort and will be updated annually. Your system has a total of 237 active service connections. We have identified 39 of these service lines and 17 of these lines are galvanized lines that are required to be replaced. There are no identified lead service lines. There are 198 service lines that are of unknown material. If you have not done so already, please contact the Town to let us know if your service line is either lead, galvanized pipe, copper, or plastic. If you need help making this determination, please contact the Town directly.

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 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.
- ◆ 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. 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 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.