

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Village of Oxford
PO Box 866, Village Hall
Oxford NY, 13830
(Public Water Supply ID# NY0801746)

Introduction

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Oxford Water Department annually issues 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 did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard during 2023. 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. William Kelsey, Superintendent of Public Works, at (607) 843-8831**. 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 last Tuesday of every month at 7:30PM at the Oxford Village Hall, 20 Lafayette Park, Oxford, NY.

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'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 1700 people through 577 service connections. Our water sources are three groundwater drilled wells located within the Village. Water is pumped from the wells into the Water Treatment Plant where it is treated with NSF approved, liquid Sodium Hypochlorite solution (bleach) for disinfection. The water is pumped from the Water Treatment Plant to two storage facilities (250,000-gallon steel tank and 450,000-gallon buried reservoir).

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, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological, synthetic organic compounds, PFAS, and 1,4 dioxane. 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.

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 Chenango County Health Department at (607-337-1673).

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate Well #1	No	11/1/23	2.30	mg/L	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate Well #2	No	11/1/23	2.80	mg/L	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate Well #3	No	11/1/23	2.10	mg/L	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	6/16/22	0.0028 ¹ (<0.0010-0.0057)	mg/L	0	AL= 0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	6/16/22	0.0866 ¹ (<-0.0010-0.1300)	mg/L	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium Well #1	No	12/14/21	0.0737	mg/L	2	MCL = 2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium Well #2	No	12/14/21	0.0614	mg/L	2	MCL = 2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium Well #3	No	12/14/21	0.0542	mg/L	2	MCL = 2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel Well #1	No	12/14/21	6.8	µg/L	n/a	n/a	Discharge from steel and pipe mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel Well #2	No	12/14/21	8.6	µg/L	n/a	n/a	Discharge from steel and pipe mills; Erosion of natural deposits.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Tri-Halomethanes LRAA1	No	10/04/23	7.40	µg/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.
Haloacetic Acids LRAA1	No	10/04/23	<1.00	µg/L	n/a	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Alpha Activity Well #1	No	6/9/21	2.97	PCi/L	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (226 and 228) Well #1	No	6/9/21	1.167	PCi/L	0	MCL = 5	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha Activity Well #3	No	3/6/18	-0.390	PCi/L	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium Well #3	No	3/6/18	0.090	PCi/L	0	MCL = 5	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha Activity Well #2	No	9/6/18	-0.467	PCi/L	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium Well #2	No	9/6/18	0.749	PCi/L	0	MCL = 5	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Primary Organic Contaminants							
Dibromochloro-methane Well #3	No	12/14/21	0.6	ug/L	n/a	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.

1-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 10 tested sites. 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 and copper values detected at your water system. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the test sites.

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.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers 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. During 2023, we also had our water tested for PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane contaminants. The results for this 2023 PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane testing are pending.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2023, our water system was in compliance with applicable state drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Important Information Regarding Lead:

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. Our public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available 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.
- ◆ 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).

System Improvements

During 2023, the Oxford Village Public Water System upgraded parts of their water system. Several water mains and water valves were replaced.

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 at **(607) 843-8831** if you have questions.