

# **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017**

*Towns of Plattsburgh and Schuyler Falls, Clinton County, New York  
151 Banker Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901*

*Cadyville (NY0920775) and Woods Mills (NY0930036) Water Districts*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations the Town of Plattsburgh annually issues a report describing the quality of our drinking water. This is the report for the year 2017. The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of drinking water and the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning our drinking water, please contact **the Water and Wastewater Department at 518-562-6890** or **the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

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.

Our water source is groundwater drawn from two (2) wells. The wells are located in a gravel aquifer in the Gougeville Springs Road area. As per Clinton County and New York State requirements, the Town of Plattsburgh water is disinfected with chlorine, and fluoride is added prior to distribution. Details can be found in the "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" section of this report.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves a population of approximately 1,386 through 462 service connections. During 2017, the total water sold to customers of the water district was 22,566,880 gallons. Total water production was 29,931,304 gallons. The balance, approximately 25%, was used for firefighting purposes, hydrant use and distribution system leaks. In 2017, an average family of 3 used approximately 12,212 gallons of water per quarter at a cost of \$1.67/1,000 gallons for a water bill of approximately \$29.70 per quarter.

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

As the State regulations require, we routinely test our drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, fluoride, nitrate, lead and copper, primary inorganic chemicals, disinfection byproducts, synthetic organic chemicals, principal organic chemicals, Radium 226 and 228, and total gross alpha particle activity. The table presented on the next page depicts which compounds were detected in our 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 data, although representative, are more than a year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might 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 Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870 or the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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*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 wells. 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. 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 two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to enteric viruses, halogenated solvents, and petroleum products. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of transportation routes and septic systems in the assessment area. The source water assessment has also rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbes, herbicides/pesticides, metals, nitrates, and other industrial organics. These ratings are given because the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbes, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination.*

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Result	Range Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
<b>Total Trihalomethanes</b>								
Cadyville	N	7/15/15	3.3		ug/L	NA	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Woods Mills	N	8/21/17	3.5					
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
<b>Fluoride (a)</b>	N	Monthly	0.6	0.4 to 0.7	mg/L	4	2.2	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrate</b> Cadyville	N	1/12/17	0.9		mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead (b,c,d)</b> 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 samples Cadyville	N	9/15/15 to 9/22/15	1.0	BRL to 1	ug/L	NA	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper (b,c,d)</b> 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 samples Cadyville	N	9/15/15 to 9/22/15	0.17	BRL to 0.17	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Barium (d)</b>	N	12/1/15	0.01		mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Principal Organic Contaminates</b>								
<b>Chloroform (d)</b>	N	10/16/17	1.1		ug/L	NA	5	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Bromodichloromethane (d)</b>	N	10/16/17	0.8		ug/L	NA	5	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Dibromochloromethane (d)</b>	N	12/1/15	0.7		ug/L	NA	5	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms

**NOTES:**

- a. The result is the average for the year 2017.
- b. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the test sites.
- c. The result represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 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 and/or copper values detected in our water system. A total of ten samples were collected in the Cadyville and Woods Mills water systems and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was the second highest value.
- d. The State allows us to monitor 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 a year old.

**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.
- 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):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- RAA:** Running annual average
- BRL:** Below reportable level

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

Water from the Cadyville source has always been of exceptional quality. Water quality of both wells meets current Health Department requirements. The Town collects one sample each in Cadyville and Woods Mills, for total coliform and E. coli analysis each month. As you can see by the table, our system had no contaminant 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.

*If present, an elevated level 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 the service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Plattsburgh 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 3 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking and 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>.*

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

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### **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 at 800-426-4791.

*Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal level of 0.7 mg/l. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2016, monitoring results showed fluoride levels well below the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.*

### **WATER CONSERVATION**

Local Law No. 2 of Section 87.31 amended in 1991 provides steps for water conservation/drought procedures for emergency situations. The following recommendations can help us to conserve, which will reduce treatment and pumping costs:

- ✓ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair them promptly. Tiny leaks may use thousands of gallons of water each year;
- ✓ Use your automatic dishwasher and washing machine with full loads;
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary car washing, when doing so, do not leave water running; and
- ✓ Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator rather than running water until it is cold;
- ✓ The installation of a lawn irrigation system requires that an acceptable backflow device be installed and tested each year;
- ✓ Abandoned, privately owned water wells should be properly sealed and capped to protect our underground water sources. The Clinton County Health Department can provide property owners with proper and safe abandonment measures.

**CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you 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 customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at 518-562-6890 if you have questions.