

# ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020***

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

**Greater Plattsburgh Water District (ID# NY0900220)**

**Cliff Haven Water District (ID# NY0900218)**

**Schuyler Falls Morrisonville Water District (ID# NY0900226)**

**Southeast Beekmantown (includes Route 9/Spellman Rd) Water District (ID# NY0930048)**

**Parc Water District (ID# NY0930177)**

**Bluff Point Water District (ID# NY0916542)**

**Macey Lane Water District (ID# NY0930204)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Plattsburgh issues a report describing the quality of our drinking water. 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 concerning this report or 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?**

In general, the sources of drinking 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 the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and 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 five deep wells. The wells are located in a predominant sandstone, aquifer. Two wells are located on Route 3 and the others are off the Bullis Road. 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 over 10,000 residents in the Greater Plattsburgh, Bluff Point, Cliff Haven, Southeast Beekmantown, PARC, Morrisonville and Macey Lane districts. During 2020, the total amount of water produced was 462,409,400 gallons, with approximately 87% of that billed directly to the customers. The balance, approximately 13%, was used for firefighting purposes, hydrant use and distribution system leaks. In 2020, an average family of 3 used approximately 30,034 gallons of water per quarter, at a cost of \$2.32/1,000 gallons, for a water bill of approximately \$84.54 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, asbestos, fluoride, total gross alpha particle activity, primary inorganic chemicals, nitrate, lead and copper, principal organic chemicals, disinfection byproducts, synthetic organic chemicals, Radium 226 and Radium 228. 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 of our data, though representative, are more than one 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870.

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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 five drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbes and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a permitted discharge facility (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include additional water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.*

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Result	Range Detected/RAA	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
<b>Total Trihalomethanes</b>								
Greater Plattsburgh	N	7/13/20	2.0					By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Macey Lane	N	7/9/19	2.5					
Southeast Beekmantown	N	8/19/20	4.8		ug/l	NA	80	
PARC	N	8/19/20	1.1					
Bluff Point	N	8/19/20	5.4					
Cliff Haven	N	8/8/18	2.4					
Morrisonville(Schuyler Falls)	N	8/19/20	1.4					
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
<b>Fluoride (a)</b>								
Greater Plattsburgh	N	Monthly	0.5	0.3 – 0.8	mg/l	4	2.2	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nitrate</b>								
Greater Plattsburgh	N	5/18/20	0.21		mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead (c)</b>								
Cliff Haven (d) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (14)	N	6/4/19	0.0024	<0.001-0.003	mg/l	NA	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Morrisonville (Schuyler Falls)(b) - 90 <sup>th</sup> % (15)	N	6/4/19	<0.001	<0.001-0.0013				
Macey Lane (b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (6)	N	6/5/18	0.0010	<0.001–0.0046				
PARC (b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (7)	N	6/4/18	0.0017	<0.001-0.0059				
GPA (b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (37)	N	6/4/18	0.0018	<0.001-0.014				
<b>Copper (c)</b>								
Cliff Haven (d) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (14)	N	6/4/19	0.16	0.038 - 0.18	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Morrisonville (Schuyler Falls)(b) - 90 <sup>th</sup> % (15)	N	6/4/19	0.23	0.025-0.4				
Macey Lane (b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (6)	N	6/5/18	0.11	0.021 -0.14				
PARC(b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (7)	N	6/4/18	0.36	0.072 -0.45				
GPA (b) – 90 <sup>th</sup> % (37)	N	6/4/18	0.14	<0.020 - 0.21				
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>								
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>								
Greater Plattsburgh	N	10/21/20	2.19		ng/l	NA	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

**NOTES:**

- a. The result is the average for the year 2020.
- b. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at 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
- 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 quality for the Greater Plattsburgh Water District has always been of exceptional quality. Water quality of all wells meets current Health Department requirements. The Town collects ten monthly samples in Greater Plattsburgh, two in Morrisonville, one in each Southeast Beekmantown, Bluff Point and Cliff Haven for total coliform and E. coli analysis. In addition, one quarterly sample is collected from PARC and Macey Lane. 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 up 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 our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

In this reporting period, the Greater Plattsburgh Water District experienced incidents requiring “Boil Water” notices. None of these incidents were a result of system contamination, but were issued as precautions due to system leaks, breaks or pressure reductions. The dates and reasons for these notifications are as follows:

1.	01/30/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	PARC
2.	02/20/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	GPA
3.	02/21/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	GPA
4.	06/03/2020	Maintenance/upgrades	Follow up samples negative	GPA
5.	07/22/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	PARC
6.	09/22/2020	Maintenance/repairs	Follow up samples negative	PARC
7.	10/18/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	GPA
8.	10/18/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	GPA
9.	12/17/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	GPA
10.	12/21/2020	Water line break	Follow up samples negative	CH

### 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 2020, 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 conserve, which will reduce treatment and pumping costs:

- ✓ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair them. 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;
- ✓ 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 continuing to allow us to provide you with quality drinking water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We ask all our customers to help us protect our water sources, which is the heart of our community. Please call our office at 518-562-6890 if you have questions.