

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021  
City of Little Falls  
659 E Main Street, Little Falls New York 13365  
(Public Water Supply ID#NY 2102308)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, The City of Little Falls 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 did not violate a Maximum Contaminant Level or any other water quality standard for the samples we collected in 2021 but we did have a Sample Monitoring Violation that is noted below in this report. 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 Daniel Bennett, Chief WTP Operator, at 315-823-3260. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Public Works meetings. The meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Mayors conference room, 2nd floor in City Hall. Additional information is available from the local health unit of NYSDOH in Herkimer at 315-866-6879.

## **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 sources are: Beaver Reservoir, a spring fed pond, located in the Town of Salisbury; King Springs #1 & #2 which are spring fed catchments located in the Town of Salisbury; and the Spruce Lake catchment area which is a surface water supply influenced by streams and creeks located in the Town of Salisbury.

During 2021, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water for The City of Little Falls is treated with techniques such as disinfection, corrosion control, algae control and slow sand filtration prior to distribution.

The New York State Department of Health has evaluated this public water supply's (PWS) 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 PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

Our water is collected from a number of upland reservoirs and spring sources. Based on the analysis of available information, the spring sources are rated as having a medium susceptibility to protozoan and pesticide contamination. These ratings are due to the pasture and row crop land cover in the assessment area. No permitted discharges or other regulated facilities were identified in the assessment area.

An assessment of Spruce Lake found a moderate susceptibility to contamination. No permitted discharges were found in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Additional sources of potential contamination include septic systems.

An assessment of Beaver Creek Reservoir found an elevated susceptibility to contamination. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges were found in the assessment area and there are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources.

An assessment of Klondike Reservoir found no noteworthy risks to water quality. It should be noted that reservoirs in general are highly sensitive to phosphorus and microbial contaminants.

Please note that our water is filtered and disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves 4,605 people through 1,800 service connections. The total water produced in 2021 was 770 million gallons. The average daily flow was 2.11 million gallons per day with a high single day flow of 2.4 million gallons and a single day low flow of 1.77 million gallons. The amount delivered to customers was 177 million gallons; additionally, there was estimated another 50 million gallons of identified usage. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires, run bleeders and leakage in the distribution system. This leaves 543 million gallons of water unaccounted for. In 2021 water customers were charged \$55.00 per 1000 cubic ft (7480gallons) of water and the average annual water charge for residential customers was \$335.29.

## 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, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. 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. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. 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 at (800) 426-4791 or the Herkimer District Office of the New York State Department of Health at (315) 866-6879.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Turbidity(1)							
Filter Effluent Composite Turbidity(1)	No	Every 4 Hrs.	Avg0.045 (0.026-0.093)	NTU	N/A	1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Distribution System Turbidity	No	5 Per Week	Avg0.15 (0.07-0.29)	NTU	N/A	5.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
<b>Inorganic</b>							
Nitrate	No	2/4/21	0.321mg/l	Mg/l	10mg/l	10mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer
Barium	No	2/4/21	0.0062mg/l	Mg/l	2mg/l	2mg/l	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Lead	No	7/30/20	5.4 (2) ND-12.9	Ug/l	0	AL=15ug/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	No	7/30/20	166 (3) 8.3-211	Ug/l	1.3	AL=1.3mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>Disinfection Byproducts Stage 2</b>							
<b>Test Site #1</b>							
Trihalomethanes	No	8/2/21	57.23(4) 18.8-97.9	Ug/l	N/A	80 ug/l	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Haloacetic Acids	No	11/3/21	32.9(4) 10.3-55.3	Ug/l	N/A	60 ug/l	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Test Site #2</b>							
Trihalomethanes	No	8/2/21	62.48(4) 18.8-113	Ug/l	N/A	80 ug/l	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Haloacetic Acids	No	11/3/21	37.9(4) 11-64.8	Ug/l	N/A	60 ug/l	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Radiological</b>							
Uranium	No	7/30/18	0.31ug/l	Ug/l	0	30ug/l	Erosion of natural deposits

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single distribution system turbidity

measurement (0.290 NTU) for the year occurred on 8/2/21. State regulations require that distribution system turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the filter effluent turbidity samples collected have measurements below 1 NTU. In 2021 100% of all samples collected were below 1.0NTU

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 18<sup>th</sup> sample which had a value 0.0054mg/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

4 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

#### **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.

**Level 1 Assessment**: A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment**: A Level 2 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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 that are 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.

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

### **Monitoring Violations:**

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. During 2021, we “did not complete all monitoring or testing” for 1,4- Dioxane, as a sample was not collected in the second quarter of 2021 and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Previous samples and samples collected after the second quarter of 2021 had no detection of 1,4-Dioxane.

## **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).

## **LEAD**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. 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. The City of Little Falls 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or 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 (1-800-426-4791) or 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 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.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

The City of Little Falls is currently undertaking multiple projects to reduce unaccounted for water use in the system and reduce contamination potential along with evaluating treatment system efficiency and making modifications as needed. Our staff also search for, and repair, water leaks in the distribution system throughout the year. Additionally, the water meter replacement program which began in late 2021, resulting from the need to replace failing meter components, is continuing through the beginning of this year. We expect to be completed with meter replacement by summer 2022.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.