

# Southside Water Inc. 2021 Annual Water Quality Report

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NYS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY I.D. # 2221333

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, **Southside Water Inc.** 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 was not able to meet all State and Federal drinking water health standards this is demonstrated on Page 3 of this report under the table of detected contaminants.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **James V. Lettiere Jr. Director at Southside Water Inc.**, at the above or you may call the New York State Health Dept. at 315-785-2277. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. The 1996 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments & the adopted federal regulations require that all community water systems provide their users with an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) by May 31 of each Year. The Southside Water Inc. system is used to transport water provided by the City of Watertown to you the customer. All though our Water Rates vary from that of a city customer the source and end product would remain the same. You will find a copy of the 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE CITY OF WATERTOWN NY WATER DEPARTMENT attached to this report or you may view it on line at: <http://www.watertown-ny.gov/awqr> if you have any questions regarding that report please contact the City of Watertown Water Department.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Water in our system comes from the City of Watertown's distribution system and is metered to Southside Water Inc. at the City's limits located on Holcomb Street. More information about the actual source of your water can be seen in the attached City of Watertown Annual Water Quality Report.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves residents in what is known as the Lettiere Tract and County Rout 65 in the Town of Watertown NY. The system has 118 service connections at this time.

Southside Water Inc. and the City of Watertown bill per unit or 100 cubic feet (748 gallons). There is approximately are 7.48 gallons of water in one cubic foot and 748 gallons in a unit.

The total amount of water that passed through the system in 2021 was approximately **876,200** cubic feet or (6,553,976 Gallons) the daily average was 2,400 cubic feet or 1,7956 gallons per day

The amount of water delivered billed to customers in 2021 was approximately **694,800** cubic feet

The remaining **181,400** cubic feet or approximately 20% percent of the water purchased could be attributed to testing, maintenance flushing, customer meters not running to capacity, the automated flushing hydrant located at the end of our 8" Main on County Rout 65 and two leaks the company experienced in 2021 (One on 5/10/2021 and the other on 6/02/2021).

***Southside Water Inc. owns and operates 6 fire hydrants for the purpose of flushing and does not offer fire protection of any kind through use of its hydrants. UNAUTHORIZED USE OR TAMPERING with equipment owned and operated by Southside Water Inc. IE Fire Hydrants, Valves, Pipes, Meters, etc. Will be treated as a criminal act.***

## **RATES**

**The Southside Water Inc. rates are governed by the New York State Department of Public Service.**

**The rates as of January 2020 are as follows:**

The first 1,000 Cubic Feet or (Approximately 7,480 gallons) are Included in the Minimum Quarterly Charge = \$113.88

All over 1,000 Cubic Feet = \$7.44 per unit or 100 cubic feet (Approximately 748 gallons)

The average annual cost of water for a residential user was approximately \$700.00

More information about our rates can be found on our web site or at the New York State public Service Commission web site.

In January of 2020, the Public Service Commission decided not to raise rates. However, they also agreed to funding the companies Repair Escrow Account to \$20,000.00. This is to be funded and maintained buy surcharging the customers \$62.35 for 3 quarters of 2021 then reducing that to a maximum of \$50.00 for every quarter after that until the account is at its maximum. You can read more about this surcharge on our web site under notices or by contacting our office, we will be happy to explain this order.

*For customer billing complaints that cannot be resolved with the company you may contact the New York State Department of public service (DPS*

*DPS complaints may be directed as Follows: Website: [www.dps.ny.gov/complaints](http://www.dps.ny.gov/complaints): Phone DPS HOTLINE at 1-800-342-3377 (M-T 7:30a- 7:30p f:7:30a-7:00p) ort Mail: Office of Consumer Services, NYS Department of public service ,3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223*

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

As the State regulations require, the City of Watertown routinely monitors and tests our drinking water for numerous contaminants. As stated before this information may be found in the **City of Watertown's 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report** attached.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might reasonably be 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 Health Department District Office at (315) 785-2277.

## **TESTING**

In Addition to the test performed by the City of Watertown Southside Water Inc. is also required to test for Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) these are byproducts of Chlorination. The chart below shows our results of that testing as you will see the goal is to keep the (TTHM) under 80 MCL and the (HAA5) under 60 MCL.

As a Water Transportation Company we have very little control over this but have been working very closely with the EPA, City of Watertown and the New York State Health Dept. to come up with a cost effective way to lower this level to the safe limits. Some of this could be attributed to the fact that you as a community are very conservative water users. This allows the (TTHM) to build up over time. In other words, we may need less chlorine at the start or more use of the water at the end of the line both ideas are being continuously being studied at this time. The company in attempts to keep the water fresher did install an automated flushing device at the end of its line on County Rout 65 in October of 2019 we have been wasting approximately 10,000 gallons of water every other day between May 1 – November 30 this is when the City uses the most Chlorine in its treatment proses due to the black river having warmer temperatures. This has kept the THHM and HAA5 levels in compliance most of 2020 We are hoping this will keep the THHM and HAA5 levels within tolerance in the future.

In 2021, Southside Water contracted with Converse Labs to conduct tests for 2 contaminants (THHM's and HAA5's) and the THHM contaminants were at a slightly higher annual level than regulatory limits allow for the first and second quarters. This was due to a high reading in August and November 2021 that kept our annual average or LRAA high our customers were notified by mail when there was a violation within the system. Copies of any past and current violations can be found on our web site under notifications or you may request mailed copy in writing with a self-addressed stamped envelope stating which notice you would like a copy of or by making an appointment to visit our office.

2021 Table of Detected Contaminants for Southside Water Inc.							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Mesurment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Ttihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	2/19/21	39.1 LRAA=53.8	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Ttihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	5/12/21	48.9 LRAA=52.9	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Ttihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	8/11/21	157.5 LRAA=76.9	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Ttihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	11/10/21	29.6 LRAA=68.8	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NO	2/19/21	52.4 LRAA=45.8	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NO	5/12/21	59.4 LRAA=47.6	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NO	8/11/21	62.8 LRAA=60.0	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	YES LRAA> 60	11/10/21	80.3 LRAA=63.4	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

*Additional information is available from the EPA's SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE (800-426-4791)*

## 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. (MCL is based on the annual running average for four quarters)

**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.

**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.

**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)

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

**Non-Detects (ND)** = Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**LRAA** = The Locational Running Annual Average for four quarters.

### Table Notes:

**1** – In addition to test reported by the City of Watertown, Southside Water Inc. is also required to perform the test shown in the Table above. The NYS Health department and the City are working closely with Southside Water Inc. to resolve any violations.

**2** – (LRAA) = The Locational Running Annual Average for four quarters.

**3** – You will find more tables and information in the City of Watertown Annual Quality report attach.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As one can see by the Table of Detected Contaminants, our system did have a violation in November of 2021. We have learned through our testing that some adjustments to the water still may need to be done. These adjustments are not just simply adding more chemicals or taking some out. To change what is in the water one receives, the company would need to build a treatment facility or pursue other sources such as wells. In either case we would need to filter and put back what is needed to meet the needs of the system. This would be cost prohibitive.

Flushing seems to be the solution to this problem at this time. Southside Water Inc. continues to monitor HAA5 and THHM levels and has found the levels did not fall within the EPA guidelines in 2021. This was due to an unusually high HAA5 reading in the fourth quarter of 2021 making the companies LRAA (The Locational Running Annual Average) for four quarters for HAA5s exceed 60 MCL. The conclusion at this time is to continue to monitor the THHM and HAA5 levels. Southside Water Inc. continues to maintain its own flushing hydrant since October of 2019. Currently, due to weather it is only being operated from May until November. Since the new flushing hydrant was installed, the quarterly MCL (Maximum Contaminate Level) has been in compliance and the LRAA remains in compliance until November of 2021. Once again, we would like to point out that Southside Water Inc. is a sealed system and the company has very limited control at this time over the treatment or level of the contaminants in its pipes. **However we are continuing to meet with the City and other organizations to try to mitigate this issue buy adjusting its flushing operations.**

**Note: The City of Watertown is also using flushing hydrants. There is one on Holcomb Street and they have informed us they are making adjustments at the water treatment plant to help mitigate this issue.**

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water did not meet all of the state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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).

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

We are proud to inform you that during 2021 our system was in compliance with ALL New York State operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

## **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.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - More **Water Conservation Tips** can be found in the **City of Watertown's 2021 Annual Water Quality Report**

## **CLOSING**

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

**Attached to this report you will find a copy of the City of Watertown's 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. You may also view it at their web site address below**

**[athttps://www.watertownny.gov/media/Water/AWQR/2021%20Annual%20Water%20Quality%20Report.pdf](https://www.watertownny.gov/media/Water/AWQR/2021%20Annual%20Water%20Quality%20Report.pdf)**

**The City's report provides an overview of last year's water quality supplied to Southside Water Inc. Included are more details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standard**

# City of Watertown 2021 Annual Water Quality Report

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 13 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my 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 source is the Black River, a surface water source, which originates in the Adirondack Mountains and runs through the center of the City and westerly to Black River Bay. During 2021 our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Flows in the Black River are regulated by the Hudson-Black River Regulating District and are controlled by a series of hydro-electric power dams stretching from its headwaters in the Adirondacks to its mouth in Lake Ontario. If the City of Watertown's 15 million gallon per day Water Treatment Plant were running at full capacity, it would need only 2.3% of the minimum flow of the Black River. The water is treated within modern facilities prior to distribution. The water filtration building and main pumping station were reconstructed in 1987-1991. Liquid Alum and a nonionic polymer are added to the water to coagulate and settle out dirt and organic matter through a dosing station upstream of the water plant. The settled water is then pumped to the process complex at 1707 Huntington Street. Polyaluminum chloride and nonionic or cationic polymer are added prior to filtering. Carbon may be added to combat taste and odor. The filtered water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms. The water is then treated with sodium silicate for corrosion control and with fluoride to help fight tooth decay. The finished potable water is pumped to the City's distribution system and through the Development Authority of the North Country's line to the Towns of Champion, LeRay, and Pamela.

During 2021 the City Water Treatment Plant produced 2,135,571,000 gallons of water. The amount of water that was billed by the City was 1,336,560,652 gallons. The difference of 798,922,875 gallons or 37.4% was attributed to leaks, flushing and fires.

Water Rates:

Quarterly Meter Rate

Usage Rate \$/1,000 cubic feet(7,480 gallons)  
 First 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons) \$40.93  
 Over 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons) \$27.66

**Monthly Meter Rate**

Usage Rate \$/1,000 cubic feet(7,480 gallons)  
 First 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons) \$40.93  
 Over 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons) \$27.66

**Source water assessment and its availability**

The NYSDOH has evaluated this PWS's (public water supply's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph 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.

Overall, this water supply is most susceptible to microbial contaminants, primarily from pasture and permitted discharges within the watershed. Sediment and turbidity associated with mining operations is also a concern, and transportation routes also have a potential to contribute various contaminants. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**How can I get involved?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Vicky L. Murphy, Superintendent of Water, at (315) 785-7757. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. Significant items of agenda are normally printed in the Watertown Daily Times a few days prior to the meeting. The meetings are on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Council chambers located on the third floor of City Hall, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York. Notices of Public Hearings are always printed in the newspaper prior to the meeting under "Legal Notices" in the classified section.

**Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Where do TTHM's and HAA5's come from?

By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs and HAA5's are formed when source water contains organic matter.

## Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



## Results of voluntary monitoring

### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels 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 service lines and home plumbing. City of Watertown 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Explanation

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) occurs naturally in water and from land based activities. TOC's are a concern because they react with the disinfectant chlorine to produce disinfection by products within the distribution system.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	55.8	3.4	75.3	2021	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	89.8	19.8	201	2021	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2021	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	1	NA	NA	2014	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.017	NA	NA	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1	.63	1	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth;
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	99.46	NA	NA	2021	No	Soil runoff
99.46% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .4. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.88	NA	NA	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.41	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	12	2019	3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

**Violations and Exceedances**

**TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]**

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The City was in violation of the Stage II Disinfection By Product rule during the 4th quarter of 2021. The City installed automatic hydrant flusher at sites to flush water daily to remove DBP contaminates.

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
HAA6Br (ug/L)	2.95	2.36	3.9
HAA9 (ug/L)	44.99	22.9	75
manganese (ug/L)	21.7	13.7	34.1

**Unit Descriptions**

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Unit Descriptions	
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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 contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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