

# ***Town of Friendship***

*4468 State Route 275  
Friendship, NY 14739*

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023  
Town of Friendship Water Department – ID # NY 0200319*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, The Town of Friendship, 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. 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 Oakley Sortore, Water Plant Operator, at 585-973-7697. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Depot Street meeting room.

## **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 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 1380 people through 575 service connections, fed by our three drilled water wells (Well 1, Well 4, and Well 5). AquaMag, a blended phosphate is added to the water to Sequester Iron and Manganese, as well as aid in corrosion control. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

In brief, Well 4 was evaluated for susceptibility to contamination in 2003 and was found to be at medium risk for halogenated solvents, nitrates, enteric bacteria, and enteric viruses. This well also had sensitivity to chemical and microbial contamination. A copy of the Source Water Assessment Report has been made available for review at the town hall.

## 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, nitrite, 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, are 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 (800-426-4791) or the Allegany County Health Department at 585-268-9250.

**TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected/ 90th percentile	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL, TT, AL	Likely Source Of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes 2PA	NO	8/16/23	13.9	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids 2PA	NO	8/16/23	4.4	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids 4EM	NO	8/16/23	1.4	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes 4EM	NO	8/16/23	5.9	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.

Total Trihalomethanes QLY	NO	8/16/23	32.5	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids QLY	NO	8/16/23	6.9	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Lead	NO	8/2/23	0.000 (90th percentile)***	Mg/l	0	AL-0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	8/2/23	0.313 (90th percentile)***	Mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits: leaching from wood preserves
Barium Well 1	NO	4/27/21	211	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium Well 4	NO	5/18/2023	400	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium Well 5	NO	3/30/22	272	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic Well 1	NO	4/27/21	5.0	Ug/l	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Arsenic Well 4	NO	9/13/23	11	Ug/l	n/a	10*	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Arsenic Well 5	NO	10/5/23	4.7	Ug/l	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride	NO	5/18/2023	.3	Mg/L	n/a	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water

							additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium Well 1	NO	7/5/23	37.2	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners;;Animal wastes
Sodium Well 4	NO	7/5/23	21.8	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners;;Animal wastes
Sodium Well 5	NO	7/5/23	26.5	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners;;Animal wastes
Nitrate Well 1	NO	8/10/22	.028	Mg/L	10 Mg/L	10 Mg/l	Fertilizers, Animal manure, Compounds from Industry, Septic System
Radiological Gross Beta Particle Activity Well 1	NO	4/7/2016	1.7 +/- .8	PCi/L	0	50	Certain materials are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer
Lithium	NO	11/1/2023	33	Ug/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring alkali metal found in geologic formations
Iron Well 5	NO	10/5/23	510	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 5	NO	7/5/23	263	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Iron Well 4	NO	10/5/23	680	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 4	NO	7/5/23	371	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.

Iron Well 1	NO	7/5/23	90	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 1	NO	7/5/23	32.4	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.

The EPA and NYSDOH do not regulate Lithium levels in drinking water at this time. This was selected as a potential contaminant to test for during a 5-year span as part of UCMR 5 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule).

\*The State considers 50 PCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

\*\*Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people of severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

\*\*\*The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values were the values indicated above. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

The low level for copper was 0.0029 mg/L and the high level was .361 mg/L.

The low level for lead was < 0.001 mg/L and the high level was 0.0014 mg/L.

\*An Arsenic MCL violation occurs when the running annual average at any sampling point is greater than the MCL.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

Micrograms per liter (ug/l) = Parts per Billion (ppb)

Picocuries per liter (pci/l): The measure of the radioactivity in water

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's 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.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (Parts per Million – ppm)

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible.

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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): filtered to <0.16 million fibers per liter and longer than 10 microns.

Non Detected (ND): no contaminants were detected within the testing parameters.

#### **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 current federal drinking water requirements. Although arsenic was detected below the MCL, it was detected at (11.0 Ug/l) which is greater than one-half of the MCL. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on arsenic in drinking water:

“NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.”

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

Yes,

\*An Arsenic MCL violation occurs when the running annual average at any sampling point is greater than the MCL.

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.

#### **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/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).

#### **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 also 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:

- Loading your dishwasher to capacity. 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 up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilet 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. First check the reading on the meter and then simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak

### **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2024 we plan to upgrade or repair fire hydrants, and valves in certain areas of the distribution system and reduce water loss through continued leak detection efforts and correction. We will continue to assist with the Crossroads Water Main, and tie in any of the interested customers. We are making improvements to our well facilities to provide for better redundancy. We are working towards another tank site and well. We are applying for grant funding to make major upgrades to the system that were outlined in our Comprehensive Water Study. We are in the process of installing a new Generator for our main well facility which we were awarded FEMA Grant assistance.

**WATER PUMPED (DELIVERED)** – April, May, June 1,097,692 cubic feet

**METER READING (WITHDRAWN)** - April, May, June – 781,714 cubic feet

**LOST OR UNMETERED** – Reservoir Cleaning, Hydrant Flushing, Water Main Leaks and daily maintenance – 244,513 cubic feet

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality 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. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please call our office if you have any questions. 585-973-7779

Thank You!

Oakley Sortore

Town of Friendship, Water Department