

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Clymer Water District*  
*P.O. Box 274*  
*Clymer, NY 14724*  
*Public Water Supply ID# NY0600359*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Clymer Water District, 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard in 2023. We are also pleased to report that we are continuing to make significant progress at resolving the violations issued by the Chautauqua County Health Department related to our water system facilities. These are discussed in more detail under the section “Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Operations”.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the distribution system lost pressure due to an emergency water main repair, prompting a boil water advisory. Once the repairs were made and water lines were disinfected, required bacteriological testing was completed and all water quality standards were met which led to the cancelling of the boil water advisory on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

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 Karen Foster, Town Clerk, at 716-355-2230 or Kevin Damcott, Chief Water Operator, at 716-456-1430. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled public board meetings, held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the town highway barn on Route 474.

## **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 system serves approximately 650 people and several small businesses through 225 service connections. Our water source is one ground water well. Clymer Water District operates under disinfection requirements issued by the New York State Health Department. We continuously chlorinate the water at the wellhead prior to distribution.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for our old well, which is no longer used because it contains high nitrates, but they have not completed one for our new well that was placed into service in 2004. Possible and actual threats to the old well 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 well. 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.

The source water assessment has rated our old well as having a very high susceptibility to nitrate

contamination, a high susceptibility to industrial solvents and petroleum products, and a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, pesticides, and herbicides. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a state permitted sewage disposal system to the well, and land use in the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer of high hydraulic conductivity and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

**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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, 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 Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4481.

**TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS**

Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure -ment	Regulatory Limit (MCL/AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Nitrate (old well)	N/A	8/3/23	10.4	mg/l	10 (MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic systems.
Nitrate (new well)	No	8/3/23	0.95	mg/l	10 (MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic systems.
Lead <sup>(1)</sup>	No	6/20/21 & 6/22/21	10.3; Range= ND-10.3	ug/l	15 (AL)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural Deposits
Copper <sup>(2)</sup>	No	6/20/21 & 6/22/21	0.07; Range= 0.00565-0.217	mg/l	1.3 (AL)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Barium	No	11/8/23	0.045	mg/l	2 (MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; erosion or natural deposits
<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>							
Gross Beta <sup>(3)</sup>	No	8/9/16	1.33	pCi/L	50 (MCL)	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
<b>STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (Heil Transport)</b>							
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/3/23	3.82	ug/l	60(MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
<b>STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (Heil Office)</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/3/23	12.9	ug/l	80 (MCL)	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
<b>DISINFECTANTS</b>							
Chlorine residual	No	Daily (2023)	Avg.=0.69 Range= 0.04 - 1.58	mg/l	4.0 (MCL)	N/A	Water additive used to control microbes

**Notes:**

1-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 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 values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected from homes in our water district and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was calculated to be the second highest result, which was 10.3 ug/l. The action level for Lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2-The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected. Of the 10 homes sampled in our water district the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was calculated as being the second highest result, which was 0.07 mg/l. The action level for Copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3- The NYSDOH considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

**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 that is 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.

**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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt)

**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 maximum level allowed by the State. Lead and copper were detected within the system but of 10 samples collected none were found exceeding the action levels. We are however required to present the following information on Lead in drinking water:

**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. During

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. The Clymer Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Clymer Water District at 716-355-2230. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

2023, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

In 2023, the Chautauqua County Health Department completed a comprehensive inspection of our water system and several deficiencies were identified, the most significant of which include:

- Lack of developed groundwater source capacity with the largest producing well out of service.
- A number of valves in the distribution system do not work or cannot be accessed because they were paved over.

- The water storage tank requires inspection and maintenance.

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

Our drinking water quality met or exceeded state and federal regulations. However, 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).

## **INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS**

### **Spanish**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **French**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

## **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 fire fighting 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 up 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we have engaged a new engineer to assist us in addressing Health Department violations and secure funding. These and other improvements will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. 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.