

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***  
***Hartwick Water District***  
***103 Town Drive, Hartwick, New York 13348***  
***(Public Water Supply ID#NY3800150)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Hartwick Water Commissioners' are required to issue a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of our drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. In 2023, 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, as shown on Table 1 of 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 Robert J. O'Brien, Town Supervisor and Town of Hartwick Water Commissioner, at 607.293.8134. 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 as posted on town calendar at [www.hartwickny.gov](http://www.hartwickny.gov) website or call the Hartwick Town clerk at 607.293.8123. The meetings are held at Hartwick Town Hall, located at 103 Town Drive at 7:00 p.m.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. See the section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a very high susceptibility to microbial and nitrates and a high susceptibility to industrial solvents and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government), low-intensity residential activities, pasture, and septic systems within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock, and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is 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.

Our water district serves approximately *416 residents through approximately 280 metered water connections*. 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, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Before entering the distribution system, the water receives the following treatments: a solution of Sodium Hypochlorite and water is injected into the water system at the Creamery well house to acceptable levels required by the Department of Health, .20 mg/L - 4.0 mg/L. A solution of dense Soda Ash and water is injected into the water system at the creamery well house to acceptable levels required by the health department, pH 7.4 - 7.8. It is added to control the corrosion of the pipes and to prevent material leaching. 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 DOH and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The State permitted, primary source type for the Hartwick Water District is groundwater, and is delivered through a primary well, a reserve source well, and another potential source well, currently under development and testing to be permitted by NYSDEC.

The Town of Hartwick owns the land around each of these wells and the reservoir and is charged with restricting activities that would contaminate them. These sources are described as follows:

### **1. PRIMARY WELL/CREAMERY WELL**

The primary source of groundwater supply, known as the Creamery Well, was drilled in 1970 shortly after the Town acquired the privately owned Hartwick Water Company's distribution system. The well was drilled to a depth of 43.5 feet and, at last testing, pumped at 82 gallons per minute. This well is currently on line and is providing all of the water being used by the Water District customers. This well is located across the road from the Town Hall, and we are pleased that the water quality has met all current NYSDOH standards.

### **2. RESERVE WELL/FIRE HOUSE WELL**

The reserve source of water supply, known as the Fire House Well, was drilled in 1982 to supplement the Creamery Well, if necessary. This well is located behind Fire Station No. 1, was drilled to a depth of 137 feet and tested at 90 gallons per minute. Do to some water quality issues; this well is currently offline used only in an emergency situation when, and if, Creamery Well is offline.

### **3. POTENTIAL SOURCE WELL/ BEDROCK WELL (not yet connected to system).**

*The potential source of water supply, known as the Bedrock Well, was drilled in 2004 to replace the Fire House Well. (Permitting for this well is still incomplete and is pending approval from NYSDEC) This well is located on Town owned property north of the primary water source, known as the Creamery Well.*

## **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, 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the NYSDOH, at the Oneonta, NY District office at 607-432-3911.

As you can see in Table 1 below, 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 at the MCL for the Fire House Well this source was not used to provide drinking water to our customers as it is only used in emergencies. Table 2 denotes the location where a water sample was taken for testing.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
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>Distribution</b>							
Lead	NO	09/10/2022	90% =4.0 (Range = ND-6.3)	Ug/L	N/A	AL =15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	NO	09/10/2022	90% =1.1 (Range =0.200-1.1)	Mg/L	1.3	AL =1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Chloroform Chlorodibromomethane Dichlorobromomethane Bromoform Trihalomethanes	NO	09/21/2023	7.1	Ug/L	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromo acetic acid)	NO	09/21/2023	4.5	Ug/L	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Creamy Well 1</b>							
Nitrate	NO	09/21/2023	1.6	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	NO	06/04/2020	7.9	Ug/L	10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
<b>Firehouse Well 2- emergency only not active in 2023</b>							
Arsenic	NO	01/17/2023 04/06/2023 09/21/2023 12/21/2023	10.0 11.0 9.9 10.0	Ug/L	10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
<b>Bedrock Well 3- Not active in 2023</b>							
Arsenic	NO	12/07/2023	11	Ug/L	10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	NO	12/07/2023	0.022	Mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	NO	12/07/2023	0.15	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	NO	12/07/2023	24.2	Mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Iron	NO	12/07/2023	128	Ug/L	300	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Manganese	NO	12/07/2023	66	Ug/L	300	N/A	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Sulfate	NO	12/07/2023	6.8	Mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Zinc	NO	12/07/2023	0.183	Mg/L	5	N/A	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
<b>Footnotes:</b>							
1-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the five 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 copper values detected in your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system, and the 90th percentile value was the (1.1 mg/l) value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.							
2-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the five samples collected. The action level for lead did not exceed at of the five sites tested.							

**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.

**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)

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: The highest level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**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).

## **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 at the MCL, it was detected in the Fire House well, which was not put into our distribution system and was not served to the public. Even though this water was not served to the public, we are required to present the following information on arsenic in drinking water in case we need to use the Fire House Well in the future:

“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.”

“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. [Water Supply Name] 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 [Water Supply Name and Contact Information]. 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>.”

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

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

## **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).

## **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 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. It is best to load it to capacity when using to maximize efficiency.
- ◆ 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking 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. 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.