

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016
Au Sable Forks Water District
Town of Jay, NY
PO Box 730, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912-0730
(Public Water Supply ID# 1516260)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Jay, 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 Robert Lincoln at (518) 647-2204 ext 125. 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. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

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 three drilled wells located on Grove Road. The water is disinfected with liquid sodium hypochlorite, and is pumped into the distribution system. A 360,000-gallon tank provides storage. Our water system serves 900 people through 225 service connections.

The NYS Dept. of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The assessment includes an assigned susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each possible source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the ground to the wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility; however, no significant sources of contamination were identified. The wells draw water from an unconfined aquifer and overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that our water supply is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbiological contamination. The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities.

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 New York State Department of Health at 518-891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganics							
Lead	No	2014	0.001 ¹ ND - 0.003 ²	mg/L	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	No	2014	0.11 ¹ 0.042 - 0.12 ²	mg/L	0	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Barium	No	2014	.006	mg/l	2	2 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	2016	0.18 mg/l	mg/l	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminates							
Radium 226 & 228	No	2014	0.45	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	2014	0	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	No	2014	0	pCi/L	0	4 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2016	5.6 - 10.5 ³	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2016	0 - 3.1 ³	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Notes:

- ¹ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper and lead values detected in your water system. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
- ² The levels represent the range of lead and copper samples collected in our system.
- ³ The levels represent the range of disinfection byproducts collected in our system at two locations.

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.

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).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were below the level allowed by the state. Even though our system had very low lead levels in 2014, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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 Ausable Forks Water District 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>.