

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Jay & Upper Jay Water Districts*  
*PO Box 730, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912-0730*  
*(Public Water Supply ID# 1500279 & 1500294)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Jay, issues a report annually 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 **Paul Mintz, Water Superintendent, at (518) 578-5957**. 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 source consists of two drilled wells located adjacent to the water treatment plant along Nugent Road. The water is pumped from the wells to the treatment building where the water is disinfected with liquid sodium hypochlorite. The chlorinated water then flows directly to a nearby 400,000-gallon storage tank and then flows by gravity through an 8" transmission main to the distribution system. The water is boosted into the Upper Jay distribution system by a booster pump station on Valley Road. There is a 400,000-gallon storage tank and re-chlorination system in Upper Jay. Jay Water District serves 500 people through 247 service connections. Upper Jay Water District serves 234 people through 145 service connections. We are currently working on drilling a third well to ensure we have a redundant water source as required by the NYS Department of Health.

The NYS Department of Health 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 susceptibility rating is only a rough estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water and it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility; however, no significant sources of contamination were identified. 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, including PFAS chemicals and 1,4-Dioxane. 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 Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Lead	No	2023	ND <sup>1</sup> ND-0.0016 <sup>2</sup>	mg/l	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	No	2023	0.045 <sup>1</sup> ND-0.062 <sup>2</sup>	mg/l	0	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Sodium	No	2019	4.4	mg/l	n/a	See note 4	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts – Jay Water District</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2023	3.3 – 3.9 <sup>3</sup>	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2023	3.7 – 9.2 <sup>3</sup>	ug/l	0	80 (MCL)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts – Upper Jay Water District</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	2023	6.2	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2023	13.8	ug/l	0	80 (MCL)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper and lead values detected in your water system. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is the second highest value. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

<sup>2</sup> The levels represent the range of lead and copper samples collected in your system.

<sup>3</sup> The levels represent the range of disinfection byproducts collected in our system at two locations.

<sup>4</sup> Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on 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.

**Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant 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.

**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 the lead levels in our water system did not exceed the Action Limit, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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 Jay Water District and the Upper Jay 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 Jay/Upper Jay WD Water Superintendent, Paul Mintz, at (518) 578-5957. 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?**

Last year, our system was in compliance with all applicable New York State drinking water monitoring and reporting requirements. We have a current violation for not having a redundant source of water. We are currently working on this issue and will be drilling a new well in the near future.

## **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).

## **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. 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.
- ◆ 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.

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and 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, our way of life and our children's future.