Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

Fayette Water District #3 (aka Cayuga Lake Water District 3 ID # - NY 4930009), and Fayette Water District #7 (ID # - NY4941316 - includes the hamlet of Canoga)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Fayette 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. 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 Water System Operator**,** Jim Bromka at 315-651-0274. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our Town Board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Fayette Town 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. 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.

Fayette WD #3 and #7 purchase surface water drawn from Cayuga Lake via the Town of Seneca Falls Water Treatment Plant: James Varricchio, Operator. During 2024, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The treatment plants' water intake is located 1,850 from the western shore of Cayuga Lake and is in 25 feet of water.

Basic description of the treatment process –

Raw water is drawn into the treatment plant through a 30" diameter intake line. As the raw water enters the treatment plant, a coagulant is added to assist in the settling of particles that may be in the water prior to filtration. The coagulant currently being used is PAC (polyaluminum chloride). This chemical causes the particles to attract and adhere to each other and become dense enough to settle by gravity. The treatment plant also can add activated carbon for taste and odor control if needed. After settling takes place, the water enters one of the five filters located in the main building of the plant. The water passes through a layer of anthracite coal, GAC (granular activated carbon) and several layers of sand to remove any remaining particles larger than 0.3 NTU[1]. After filtration, the water enters a 450,000-gallon clearwell tank that is located beneath the main filter building. This filtered water then passes through a ultra-violet light unit for disinfection. A small amount of chlorine is added to the filtered/treated water to prevent any bacteria growth in the distribution system. The now potable water is then pumped through a 20" diameter transmission main and the distribution system to supply the users and maintain the level of the storage towers.

Information regarding the Cayuga Lake watershed can be found on the Internet at www.cayugawatershed.org or by contacting the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, 1427 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, 585-442-3770. This website is an excellent source of information

regarding the characterization of the entire watershed.

SUMMARY OF THE SWAP (SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM):

The NYS DOH has evaluated this PWS's (Public Water System's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards. This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for phosphorus, DBP precursors, and pesticide contamination. While there is not a great density of permitted discharges in assessment area, the total amount of wastewater discharged from these facilities is high enough to raise the potential for contamination (particularly for protozoa). There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: PCBS and landfills.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In the Town of Fayette, Cayuga Lake Water District #3, the Town supplied 15,061,701 gallons of water to its customers during 2024. ALL customers of this district should contact the Town of Fayette at 315-585-6282 regarding any billing and/or service questions.

The Town of Seneca Falls billed and supplied Fayette Water District #7 customers for 4,774,850 gallons of water. ALL customers of this district should contact the Town of Seneca Falls at 315-549-2508 regarding any billing and/or service questions.

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, E. Coli, turbidity, alkalinity, total organic carbon, 21 inorganic compounds, nitrate, 25 volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and 52 synthetic organic compounds. The table included in this report 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. Anyone interested in copies of the individual laboratory reports can contact James Varricchio the Chief Operator @ 315-549-2508.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 Seneca County Health Department at 315-539-1945.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg./Max) (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity[1] (Distribution System)	NO	7/10/24 (highest)	0.20 Avg 3.87 Max 0.06-3.87 Range	NTU	N/A	TT= < 5 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity[1] (leaving treatment plant)	NO	8/7/24 (highest)	0.08 Ave 0.17 Max 0.03-0.17 Range	NTU	N/A	1.0	Soil Runoff
Nitrate	NO	8/22/24	0.884	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	NO	8/22/24	0.026	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	NO	8/22/24	0.0007	ug/L	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	NO	8/22/24	31.9	mg/L	(see Health Effects)	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Disinfection By-Products -Total Trihalomethanes-THM 2 sites (Town of Seneca Falls)	NO	1 sample per quarter @ 2 sites	35.5 Avg 19-47 Range @ Site #1 47 Avg 29-56 Range @ Site #2	µg/L	80	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Disinfection By-Products - Haloacetic Acids-HAA5 2 sites (Town of Seneca Falls)	NO	1 sample per quarter @ 2 sites	18 Avg 15-22 Range @ Site #1 19 Avg 12-26 Range @ Site #2	µg/L	60	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes Fayette WD #3 & WD #7	#3, NO #7, NO (Canoga Fire Hs.)	8/7/24 8/8/24	THMs 51.7 THMs 41.8	µg/L ug/L	80 80	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

Haloacetic Acids FWD WD #3 FWD WD #7	NO NO	9/24/24 8/8/24	16.4 14.55	µg/L	60	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Copper[2]	NO	7/6/23	0.047- 90% 0.0017 – 0.11 (range)	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead[3]	NO	7/6/23	<0.1-90% <1 – 1.1 (range)	µg/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon	NO	12/5/24	AVG 1.80 MAX 2.3 RANGE 1.4 – 2.3	mg/L	N/A	TT	Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (Unregulated)[4]	NO	2/7/24	1.95	ng/L	50000	N/A	PFBA is a breakdown product of other PFAS that are used in stain-resistant fabrics, paper food packaging, photographic film, and carpets.
Chlorine	NO	7/20/24 (Highest)	Avg 1.55 Max 2.20 Range 1.20 – 2.20	mg/L	N/A	4	Additive to drinking water to control microbes
Microcystin From HABs (in Raw Water)	NO	10/10/24	AVG 1.22 Range <0.30-2.60	ug/L	0	N/A	Harmful Algae Blooms

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the

effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 8/7/24 (0.17 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percentage 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 at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 0.047 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The 90th percentile value for lead is <1 µg/L
4- All perfluoroalkyl substances, besides PFOA and PFOS, are considered Unspecified Organic Contaminants (UOC) which have an MCL = 0.05 mg/L = 50,000 ng/L. These contaminants are currently unregulated.

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.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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 (µg/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 to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).
Pico curies per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

Lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Town of Seneca Falls is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact James Varricchio, Chief Operator at 315-549-2508. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

Information on Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory

A Lead Service Line is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and have made it publicly accessible by visiting the following website at: health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/service_line/NY4901199.htm

Health Effects of Sodium in Water

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.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2024, our system was in compliance with DOH requirements.

INFORMATION ON RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

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 people such as people 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, 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.
- 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 moves, you have a leak.

IN CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family and/or business with quality drinking water this year. We ask all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

WATER DEPARTMENT STAFF - 2024

Town Supervisor:
Jeff Trout

Water Operator:
Jim Bromka

Assistant Water Operator:

Jim Sweenburg

Highway Supt.:
Andy Brown

Account Clerk:
Jamie Excel