

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*

## *Carrollton-Limestone Town Water District*

*640 Main Street, Limestone, NY 14753*

*(Public Water Supply ID#NY0400342)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Carrollton will be issuing 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. 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 **Rickey Dixon at (716) 378-0930**. 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 third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm.

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

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 is groundwater wells: groundwater drawn from two 70-foot deep drilled wells which are located on Church Street. All water is treated with polyphosphate to prevent future leaching of copper from home plumbing systems and then disinfected with chlorine before it is transferred to the storage tank. Our system serves approximately 459 people through 146 service connections.

In 2003, the NYS DOH completed a source water assessment for our water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking waters sources were evaluated. The source water assessment includes susceptibility ratings 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 contamination of the source water. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As was mentioned before, our water is derived from two wells. The source water assessment has rated the combined susceptibility to contamination for these wells as; high from enteric bacteria, enteric viruses, cations, anions (salts, sulfate), nitrates, other industrial organics, petroleum products and protozoa; and medium-high from halogenated solvents, herbicides/pesticides and metals. These ratings for the wells are due to their proximity to oil and gas wells, pasture lands and permitted discharge facilities (industrial/ commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). While the assessment rates our sources as being susceptible to enteric bacteria, 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.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, is available for viewing at the town hall.

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: coliform bacteria, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. We also monitor the chlorine level daily. 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 water, might 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 Cattaraugus County Health Department at 716-701-3386. Information is also available from the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations>.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectant</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	2023	Avg. = .36 (.06 - .89)	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	No	4/6/21	21.4	ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper <sup>1,3</sup>	No	4/4/23 – 4/5/23 & 10/27/23 - 10/30/23	908 (41.6 - 982)  318 (18 - 592)	ug/l	1,300	AL = 1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead <sup>2,3</sup>	No	4/4/23 – 4/5/23	1.7 (ND - 1.7)	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/10/21	22.5	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

### Notes:

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 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 at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system on two separate dates and the 90th percentile values were the second highest values, 908 ug/l & 318 ug/l. **The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites sampled.**

2 – The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level for lead was 1.7 ug/l. None of the sites exceeded the action level.

### Definitions:

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**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.

**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?**

In 2022, our water system exceeded the action level of 1,300 ug/l for copper. As a result, we conducted additional sampling in 2023 and all the sample results fell below the action limit this year. Our water system is still working with the NYS Department of Health to set optimal water quality parameters for our treatment system to ensure that the issue does not reoccur in the future.

We are required to provide you with the following information. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Also, we are required to provide 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 Town of Carrollton 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 take 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 Rick Dixon at (716) 378-0930. 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?**

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 our drinking water meets health standards. We did not do the required monitoring for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), and 1,4-Dioxane between 7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023 and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. However, be advised that the water was sampled on 5/4/2022 for the same monitoring and there were no detectable levels of contamination. We will be sampling for these analytes in 2024.

There is nothing you need to do at this time. If a situation was to ever arise where the water is no longer safe to drink, you would be notified immediately.

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

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), or at <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/water.html>.

## **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 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 your family with quality drinking water this year. 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.