

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
**Village of Clayton**  
**PO Box 250, Clayton, NY 13624**  
**(Public Water Supply ID#2202335)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, **the Village of Clayton**, 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 has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 **Mr. Jeff Mosher Development Authority of the North Country, Water Quality Supervisor, at (315) 686-5552**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. **Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 5:00 pm at the Village of Clayton Municipal Complex on Mary Street.**

## **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 and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is surface water drawn from the St. Lawrence River. The intake is located at the end of Bartlett Point Road and extends 460 feet into the main shipping channel at a depth of 50 feet. During 2023, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is conveyed to the Water Treatment Plant by three low-lift pumps where it is disinfected by the injection of gaseous chlorine prior to filtration by two Diatomaceous Earth Filters. After the proper amount of detention time the water is pumped into the distribution system to our customers. Any water not consumed by our customers is stored in a 1,000,000 gallon storage tower.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

The Great Lakes watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels- intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The summary below is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at the Public Water System (PWS) intake.

The assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in medium potential for microbial and Disinfection By-Product (DBP) precursors contamination. There is also a moderate density of sanitary wastewater discharges which results in elevated susceptibility for nearly all contaminant categories. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources which includes erosion of natural deposits. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves a population of 1,791 through 1,016 metered service connections. The total amount of water produced in 2023 was 55.76 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 152,756 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 385,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 43.24 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 12.52 million gallons. This water was used to flush mains, back wash filters, fight fires and leakage which accounts for the 22.0% of the total amount produced. In 2023, water customers inside the Village and Bartlett Point Water District were charged a fixed rate per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) of \$315.00 per year plus a variable consumption of \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons. While consumers outside of the Village were charged a fixed rate per EDU of \$393.75 per year plus a variable consumption of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons.

## **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 (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), chlorine 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's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Watertown-District Health Department at (315) 785-2277.

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>Turbidity</b>							
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	Daily 2023	(0.17/4.63) (0.09-4.63)	NTU	N/A	TT=1.0	Soil Runoff.
Distribution Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	No	Week Days 2023	(0.17/1.20) (0.06-1.20)	NTU	N/A	TT=1.0	Soil Runoff.
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
Nitrate as N	No	7/26/2023	0.159	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	7/18/2023	0.799 <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	No	7/18/2023	2.10 <sup>4</sup>	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	9/2022	.0211	mg /L	2	2	Erosion of Natural deposits.
<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals</b>							
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	7/13/2023	1.96	ng/L	N/A	MCL = 10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial applications.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	No	7/13/2023	2.90	ng/L	N/A	MCL = 10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial applications.
1,4, Dioxane	No	7/13/2023	ND	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 1	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial applications.
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No	Quarterly (Avg.) 2023	63.8 <sup>5</sup> (30.6-113.3)	µg /L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	Quarterly (Avg.) 2023	27.0 <sup>5</sup> (17.1-33.6)	µg /L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Total Coliform <sup>6</sup>	No	Monthly	ND	N/A	N/A	MCL=2 or more positive samples in 1 month.	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Additional Detected Analytes<sup>7</sup></b>							
Perfluorobutanoic Acid <sup>7</sup> (PFBA)	No	7/13/23	3.29	ng/L	N/A	50,000	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial applications.

<sup>1</sup> 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 measurements for the year occurred on 6/7/2023 (4.63 NTU). State regulation requires that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Our highest single turbidity measurements for the year occurred on 8/7/23 (1.20 NTU).

<sup>3</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected within your water

system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of the samples was 0.799 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded in the 10 sites sampled.

<sup>4</sup>The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected within your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of the samples was 2.10 µg /L. The action level for lead was not exceeded in the 10 sites sampled.

<sup>5</sup>This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

<sup>6</sup>A violation occurs at systems collecting less than 40 samples per month when two or more samples are total coliform positive.

<sup>7</sup>Due to the Emerging Contaminant regulation, sampling of PFOA and PFOS is required. Due to a detection of (PFOA or PFOS), additional sampling required all analytics within the method be reported, in accordance with footnote 3 of Table 9C, Subpart 5-1. This expanded analysis detected the following analytes within this table.

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## 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.

**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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l)**: Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

## 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 the level allowed by the State. 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 Village of Clayton 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 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>.

## **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).

## **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 before 1994 can 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. Newer Energy

Star rated dishwashers use 4 or less gallons per cycle, making them more efficient even with partial load than washing by hand.

- ◆ 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.

## **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2021, the Village purchased cellular read technology that was installed on all water meters within the system to help customers detect leaks within their own property and provide them information on their consumption. This technology is now being implemented and has aided in the identification of several leaks throughout the community.

In 2024/25, the Village intends to replace the raw water intake line and replace problem mainlines, fire hydrants, and main valves within the distribution system that are in need of replacement. During 2023/24 repairs were made to the Village's water storage tanks at the Water Treatment Plant on Bartlett Point Road.

## **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 at (315) 686-5552.

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***WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE***

Statements are mailed to the property owner three (3) times a year:  
(After Hours Drop Box Available at WEST Side Entrance of Municipal Building)

**MARCH 1** (covering October 15 through February 15) – **PAYMENT DUE APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**JULY 1** (covering February 15 through June 15) – **PAYMENT DUE AUGUST 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER 1** (covering June 15 through October 15) – **PAYMENT DUE DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

A 10% penalty is added to payments received or postmarked after the Due Date.  
Accounts not paid in a timely fashion are subject to termination.  
*FAILURE TO RECEIVE BILL DOES NOT WAIVE PENALTY.*

For further information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office (315-686-5552)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

<http://www.villageofclayton.com>

**WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS  
E-MAIL us at [info@villageofclayton.org](mailto:info@villageofclayton.org)**