

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*

*Village of Interlaken*

*8369 Main St., Interlaken, NY 14847*

*(Public Water Supply ID# NY4901194)*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Interlaken, 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. 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 **Wes Ahouse, Supt-DPW, at (607) 532-8882**. 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. **The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Village Hall located on 8369 Main Street, Interlaken, NY 14847.**

## 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 system serves a population of 595 through 330 metered service connections. Customers of the water system are charged \$132.00 dollars minimum for the first 1,000 gallons of water. Water used in excess of 1,000 gallons is charged \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons. Our water source is a groundwater source consisting of a drilled well that is twenty-five (25) feet deep. The finished water is disinfected with a sodium hypochlorite solution prior to distribution.

## Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating 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 for the contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated.** See section "Are there any contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

**The source water assessment for this well indicates no significant potential sources of contamination were identified. In addition, the well draws water from fractured bedrock and a lower permeability layer exists above the aquifer. Continued vigilance in compliance with water quality protection and pollution prevention programs as well as continued monitoring and enforcement will help to continue to protect groundwater quality.**

The county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us as noted below.

**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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, 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 Seneca County Department of Health at (315) 539-1945.**

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>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
<b>Barium</b>	No	8/24/22	48	ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead (source)</b>	No	8/24/22	1.3	ug/l	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead (3) (Distribution)</b>	No	6/22/22 6/23/22	ND-4.5 ug/l 90% = 2.3 ug/l	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Copper (2)</b>	No	6/22/22 6/23/22	0.077 -1.7 mg/l 90% = 1.0 mg/l	mg/l	1.3	Al = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Nitrate as N</b>	No	12/27/23	2.7	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Asbestos</b>	No	12/15/21	<0.69	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection by-products</b>							
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM’s) 2 Sites</b>	No	8/10/23	Site 1 23.89  Site 2	ug/l	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains

Table of Detected Contaminants							
			46.12				large amounts of organic matter.
<b>Haloacetic acids 2 Sites</b>	No	8/10/23	Site 1 10.4 Site 2 6.1	ug/l	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Chlorine Residual</b>	No	Daily	1.48 mo. Avg. (0.49 - 2.20) daily low/high	mg/l	N/A	4.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>							
<b>Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)</b>	No	11/13/23	ND	ng/l	N/A	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
<b>Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)</b>	No	11/13/23	ND	ng/l	N/A	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
<b>1,4-Dioxane</b>	No	11/13/23	0.011	ug/l	N/A	1	Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites.

**Notes:**

2 – 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 at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 0.76 mg/l. The action level for copper was exceeded at 1 of the 10 sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected.

**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.

**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.

**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).  
**Picograms per liter (pg/l)**: Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).  
**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)**: A measure of the radioactivity in water.  
**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)**: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.  
**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)**: A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL 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.

### **Lead**

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 Village of Interlaken 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 Wes Ahouse from the Village of Interlaken at (607) 532-8882. 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?**

During June of 2023, the systems well exhibited a low water level which was caused by drought conditions that affected the region. The water level in the well was so low that a voluntary Conserve Water Order was issued at that time. Issues with the water level in the well have occurred periodically over the course of many years, and in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 the Seneca County Health Department cited the water system for having a diminished source capacity. Village officials are working with our engineer to develop plans for the development of a new water source. We will continue to update you on the status of those plans in the coming months. Our water system was in compliance with all other current regulations governing the operation of our system in 2023.

## **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.

## **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS & CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our consumers. The most noticeable improvement is the Water Storage Tank (located on the south side of Rt. 96A, west of the village), that is 48 feet in diameter by 28 feet tall and has a working capacity of 360,000 gallons of water. We also installed a new 12-inch water main from the old tower to the new tank with fire hydrants every 500 feet.

Phase two goals include replacing some more water mains, developing a new lake source, upgrading our well, and adding a filtration system at our water plant. We are working with Hunt Engineers of Big Flats, NY, and are nearing final design of the lake intake and the filtration system. Thus far we have purchased the land required for the lake pump station. Our goal is to go out to bid in fall of 2024. These upgrades are essential so we can continue to provide our citizens with safe, good tasting water. The cost of these improvements will be reflected in our water rates. Though the rate adjustments are necessary, the village is doing everything possible to keep our rates low including applying for every state and federal grant available.

We ask that all our customers do their part to help us keep costs low and protect our water sources by not wasting water and staying on top of leaks that may develop in homes or businesses. After all, water is at the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions @ 607-532-8882.