

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023  
Prattsville Water District  
Prattsville, NY 12468  
Federal ID #  
NY1900031

## **Introduction**

To comply with State regulations, Prattsville Water District 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 the water system Operator of Record, LVDV Operations Inc., Travis Castle, at (845) 532-8079 or Assistant David Whitbeck at (518) 299-3054, or (518) 915-4396. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend monthly Town Board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. 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 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 FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 400 people through 178 connections. Our water source is ground water from a well which is located on Washington Street. The water is disinfected with liquid chlorine prior to distribution. Once chlorinated, it is stored in the Town's 75,000-gallon water tower, where 4-log disinfection, (99.99% reduction in the number of bacteria colonies) is achieved after an ample contact time.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 contamination of the source water; it does not mean that the water delivered to the consumers is or will become contaminated. See the section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from one drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbial, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are primarily due to the proximity of low-intensity residential activities within the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, 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 for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting the Town Hall at (518) 299-3125.

### 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, 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, is 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 Oneonta Office of the NY Health Department at (607) 432-3911.

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
Nitrate	N	9/7/23	0.67	MG/L	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	N	9/15/22	21.3 UG/L	UG/L	N/A	MCL = 80	A by-product of drinking water chlorination is needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	N	9/15/22	7.2 UG/L	UG/L	N/A	MCL = 60	A by-product of drinking water disinfection is needed to kill harmful organisms.
Bromomethane	N	3/2/23 5/4/23 8/3/23 11/2/23	1.5 2.3 4.8 3.4	UG/L	N/A	MCL = 5	Used to kill a variety of pests used to make other chemicals or as a solvent to get oil out of nuts, seeds, and wool.
Barium	N	9/15/22	1.04	MG/L	2	MCL = 2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	N	9/15/22	2	UG/L	N/A	MCL = 100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	9/15/22	0.0007	MG/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Lead	N	9/8/22	90% = 2.6 Range=1.0-3.5	UG/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	N	9/8/22	90% = 0.088 Range=0.029-0.099	MG/L	1.3	AL- 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Coliform	N	10/5/23	1	N/A	0	TT = 2 or more positive samples after April 1, 2016. MCL 2 or more positive samples before April 1, 2016.	Naturally present in the environment

### **Footnotes:**

- 1.) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the five 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 in your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system, and the 90th percentile value was below the lowest result received (0.029 MG/L). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2.) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at none of the five sites tested.

### **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 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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the 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.

**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 the liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

### **What does this information mean?**

The water department is taking quarterly bromomethane samples to monitor the levels, and we are working with the Town's Engineer to resolve the problem.

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. Prattsville 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 Travis Castle at (845) 532-8079 or Assistant David Whitbeck at (518) 299-3054 or (518) 915-4396. 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>

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded most 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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **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 how much your household uses 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 of water for every cycle, regardless of the number of dishes 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. Even a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons of water a day. Fix it, and you can save almost 6,000 gallons of water per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank and watching 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 could save more than 30,000 gallons of water a year.

### **Closing**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide 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 cost 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. Please call our office if you have any questions.