

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022*  
*Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, New York*  
*Public Water Supply ID # 5704191*

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal Regulations Great Meadow Correctional Facility 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. 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 Randy Gross, Deputy Superintendent of Administration at (518) 639-5516, extension 3000. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

**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 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 approximately 3,800 individuals through 104 service connections. This includes all prison facilities and the Hamlet of Comstock. In 2022, the total finished water produced was approximately 149,2405,000 gallons or an average of 409,328 gallons per day. The maximum month (August) was 14,273,000 gallons and the minimum (February) was 9,066,900 gallons.

The source of water for Great Meadow Correctional Facility, Washington County Correctional Facility and the Hamlet of Comstock, New York is a 37-acre reservoir located in the Town of Whitehall, New York. Also a drilled well located at Great Meadow Correctional is used to augment the water supply. Treatment at the facility consists of flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection, and corrosion control. Licensed water operators cover the plant 8 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The NYS DOH 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 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, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Based on the analysis of available information, this drinking water source does not have an elevated susceptibility to contamination. There are no regulated facilities within this watershed and the corresponding land cover does not pose any substantial risks to the source water quality.

The State Health Department 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 Randy Gross, Deputy Superintendent of Administration at (518) 639-5516, extension 3000.

**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, principal organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, synthetic organic compounds, and radiological elements. 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 New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at (518) 793-3893.

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**TABLE of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg / Max Range	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL.)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b><u>Microbiological</u></b>							
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	1/8/22	0.224	NTU	N/A	TT=1	Soil Run-Off
Turbidity	No	2022	100%<0.3	NTU	N/A	95%<0.3	Soil Run-Off
<b><u>Inorganic Compounds</u></b>							
Alkalinity Total (RAW Water)	No	2022	14.25 (2.6-0.25)(10-17)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally Occurring
Alkalinity Total (Finished Water)	No	2022	25.1 (22-29)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally Occurring
Chlorine (Residual)	No	5/2/22 8/22/22	2.10 0.80	mg/L	—	4 <sup>4</sup>	Microbe Control Additive
Chloride	No	8/4/22	4.9	mg/L	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally Occurring Indicative of Road Salt Contamination
Barium	No	6/7/22	.56	mg/L	N/A	MCL = 2	Discharge Drilling waste & Metal refineries Erosion from natural deposits
Lead	No	7/5/22 8/9/22 7/21/22	ND <sup>1</sup> (ND to 0.0011) <sup>2</sup>	µg/L	15	AL = 15	Corrosion of Plumbing System
Copper	No	7/5/22 8/9/22 9/21/22	0.12 <sup>1</sup> (ND – 0.14) <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of Plumbing System Erosion of Natural Deposits Leaching from wood preservatives
Nickel	No	6/8/21	0.0005	mg/L	NA	NA	Erosion of Natural Deposits Leaching from metal in contact with drinking water
Sodium <sup>5</sup>	No	8/4/20	5.69	mg/L	NA	NA	Naturally Occurring Road Salt, Water Softeners, Animal waste
Sulfate	No	8/4/20	4.26	mg/L	NA	MCL = 250	Naturally Occurring
Organic Carbon Total (RAW Water)	No	2022	2.0 (2.1 – 3.2) (2.8 – 3.8)	mg/L	NA	NA	Naturally Occurring
Organic Carbon Total (Finished Water)	No	2022	1.2 (1.7 – 3.1) (1.9 – 2.5)	mg/L	NA	NA	Naturally Occurring
ZINC	No	6/7/22	0.026	mg/L	NA	MCL = 5	Naturally Occurring
<b><u>Stage 1 Disinfection Byproducts</u></b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (Bldg. 90)	No	8/16/22  8/16/22	WWTP 33.0 <sup>6</sup> (23 – 37) <sup>2</sup> BLDG 90 24.8 <sup>6</sup> (23.6 – 38) <sup>2</sup>	µg/L	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection to kill harmful organisms
Trihalomethanes (TTHMS) (Bldg. 90)	No	8/16/22  8/11/22	WWTP 63 <sup>6</sup> (19.1 – 38) <sup>2</sup> BLDG 90 63 <sup>6</sup> (23.6 – 66) <sup>2</sup>	µg/L	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection to kill harmful organisms TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
<b><u>Synthetic Organic Pesticides &amp; Herbicides</u></b>							
Perfluorooctanoic Acids	No	3/17/22	1.8	µg/L	NA	MCL = 10	Released into environment by widespread applications

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**TABLE NOTES:**

- 1} The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 sites tested. The percentile scale value is based out of 100 with distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper/lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value is in the table above. The action level for copper/lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2} The level represents the range results.
- 3} Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it as it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (NTU) for the year occurred on 8/28/21. New York State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations also require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have levels below 0.3 NTU. In 2021 all samples measured met that requirement.
- 4} Value presented represents the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MDRL) which is the level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded based on running annual arithmetic average.
- 5} 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.
- 6} The value represents the highest locational running annual average (LRAA). During 2021 the highest LRAA for the WWTP occurred during the first quarter, the highest LRAA for Building 90 occurred during the first quarter for TTHMS and during the second Quarter for HAA5s.

**DEFINITIONS:**

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLGs as feasible

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water

**Method Detection Limit** (MDL): Defined as the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

**Micrograms per liter** (µg/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Milligrams per liter** (mg/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit** (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

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As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations in 2021. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**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 your drinking water does or does not meet health standards.

**INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN:**

If present, elevated levels of 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 Great Meadow Correction facility 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 wish to 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**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).

**INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS**

**SPANISH**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**FRENCH**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

**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.
- ☑ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ☑ Check every faucet 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.
- ☑ Install water saving toilets. Make sure faucets are shut-off tight. Turn off hoses that are not being used. Install water saving showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute.

**Sample Testing was completed by:** PACE Analytical Services 27 Kent Street, Suite 102, Ballston Spa, New York 12020  
(518) 884-0800

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This report was prepared for Great Meadows Correctional Facility by:

*James Cardinale* Senior Filter Plant Operator

*Roger Willingham* Plant Superintendent