

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Altona Correctional Facility
555 Devils Den Road, Altona, New York 12910
(Public Water Supply ID#NY0919482)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Altona Correctional Facility annually issues 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 Jesse Waldron, Trades specialist/Water operator, at (518) 236-7841 ext. 3950.

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. New York State has not completed the Source Water Assessment for our system. When the assessment is completed, it will be included in the yearly report.

Our water system currently serves approximately 475 people, including inmates and staff. Our water source is provided by Ground water wells. All groundwater wells are located on facility property. Well #2, 200 feet deep, 6" casing, Well #3, 200 feet deep, 7" casing, and Well #4, 256 feet deep, 8" casing. The water is treated with chlorine and polyorthophosphate (to reduce lead leaching) prior to distribution.

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, gross alpha particle activity, nitrate, lead and copper, haloacetic acids, primary inorganic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds, principal organic chemicals and radium 226 and 228. 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 Clinton County Health Department at (518) 565-4870.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	10/11/23	0.34	mg/L	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tank/ erosion of natural deposits
Copper (1)	No	12/14/23	90 th =0.40 Range: 0.021 – 0.67	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of facility plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity	No	05/25/2021	5.40	pCi/L	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	11/13/23	0.078	mg/L	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling waste or erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (Garage)	No	08/18/21	2.1	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	Disinfection byproducts
Total Trihalomethanes (Garage)	No	08/18/21	3.5	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Disinfection byproducts
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (Well # 3)	No	07/14/22	1.36 (2)	ng/L	10	MCL=10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 10 test sites. 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for lead was exceeded at one site and copper was exceeded at 3 sites tested.

2 - Estimated Value – Target analyte concentration is below the quantitation limit (RL), but above the Method Detection Limit (MDL); estimated concentration for Tentatively Identified Compounds (TIC's).

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.

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, also represented as ug/L)

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of radioactivity in water.

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. Our water system has initiated a corrosion control program designed to reduce the levels of lead and copper in our water.

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 your drinking water meets health standards. During 2023, our system

was in compliance with all monitoring and reporting requirements.

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).

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. Altona Correctional Facility 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 *Jesse Waldron, Trades specialist/Water operator, at (518) 236-7841 ext. 3950*. 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>.

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.

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 fire fighting 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.