

## **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014**

**Town of Gouverneur West Water District**

**St. Lawrence County, NY**

**(Public Water Supply ID # NY4430138)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with New York State (NYS) regulations, the Town of Gouverneur annually issues a report describing the quality of the drinking water provided to its customers. The purpose of this report is to raise customer understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect drinking water sources as well as providing an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where the Town's water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. As your water supplier, the Town wants customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please direct your question to 287-1940. If you want to learn more, please attend one of the Town's regularly scheduled Board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Gouverneur Municipal office located at 1227 US Hwy 11, Gouverneur.

### **WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater 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 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 the tap water is safe to drink, NYS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) have established regulatory limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection as tap water for public health.

The Town of Gouverneur obtains its water from the Village of Gouverneur, which is sourced by the Oswegatchie River. First the water is filtered by rapid sand filtration after which it is disinfected with a sodium hypochlorite solution. Fluoride is then added for the prevention of dental cavities. Orthophosphate is added at the water plant for corrosion control. The finished water is then pumped through a dedicated transmission line to a one million, five hundred thousand (1,500,000) gallon concrete storage tank before entering the distribution system. The Village Water Filtration Plant produces about eight hundred thousand (800,000) gallons of finished water each day. The Town water system services approximately 165 people through 66 service connections. As water enters the Town's system, sodium hypochlorite may be added to maintain sufficient chlorine residuals to prevent bacteriological contamination.

The NYS DOH has evaluated this Public Water Supply's (PWSs) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

General drinking water concerns for PWSs which use surface water sources include: storm and environment generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, transportation routes related spills, mines, landfills, inactive hazardous waste sites, chemical bulk storage facilities, and major oil storage facilities.

This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. Land cover and its associated activities within the assessment area does not increase the potential for contamination. While there are some facilities present, permitted discharges do not likely represent an important threat to source water quality, based on their density in the assessment area or total combined wastewater flows. There is no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Finally, it should be noted that relatively high flow velocities make river drinking water supplies highly sensitive to existing and new source of microbial contamination.

Copies of the SWAP are available at the Village of Gouverneur Clerk's office.

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

NYS regulations require the Town to test drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include Total Coliform, Inorganic Compounds, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sodium, Chlorides, Lead & Copper, Volatile Organic Compounds, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic acids (HAA5s), and Synthetic Organic Compounds. NYS allows the Town to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Table 1 depicts the most current values of the compounds that were detected in the drinking water supply. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

By Calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the St. Lawrence County Health Department at (315) 386-1040 you can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

*Table 1- Detected Contaminants*

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Violation Yes/No</u>	<u>Date of Sample</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Regulatory Limit</u>	<u>Likely source Of contamination</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Fluoride	No	11/14	0.72	Mg/L	2.2	Erosion of Natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	No	11/14	0.12	Mg/L	2 MCL	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in blood-pressure.
Sodium	No	9/13	43.7	Mg/L	Refer to Note 2	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
Nitrate	No	6/14	0.22	Mg/L	10 MCL	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	9/14	0.4 Range - (0.043- 0.421)	Mg/L	AL= 1.3 See Note 1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	No	9/14	0.011 Range - (<0.005- 0.0113)	Mg/L	AL= 15 See Note 1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) Mono-, di-, trichloroacetic acid Mono-, dibromoacetic acid	No	8/14	29 Range- (20-37)	Ug/L	60 MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) chloroform bromoform dibromochloromethane bromodichloromethane	No	8/14	43 Range- (24-44)	Ug/L	80 MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. Some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of cancer.
Total organic carbon Raw water	No	2014	6.3 Range- (4.2- 7.9)	Mg/L	N/A	Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total organic carbon Finished water	No	2014	1.8 Range- (1.4- 2.9)	Mg/L	N/A	See above.

**Notes:**

1. - During 2014 Five (5) samples were collected from individual homes and analyzed for lead & copper. The level presented is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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 lead values detected in your water system. Copper was not detected above the action level at any of the sites tested. Lead was not detected above the action level at any of the sites tested.
2. – 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. Our sample tested at 12 mg/l of sodium.

**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).

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

The Town of Gouverneur’s West Side had no violations in 2014. Laboratory results indicate that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by NYS.

**IS MY WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2014, the Town system complied with applicable Federal and State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although the drinking water met or exceeded NYS and Federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 and Center for Disease Control (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?**

The Town’s system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future water demand. However, 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 treating and operating the water system.
- 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.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons per day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.

- 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 your bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons per day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save 30,000 gallons a year.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing the Town to provide you with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply the Town will need to make improvements to the current water system that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements is reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments are necessary in order to address these improvements and to ensure that the system is operating and maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have any questions.

## **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014**

**Town of Gouverneur East Water District**

**St. Lawrence County, NY**

**(Public Water Supply ID # NY4430137)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with New York State (NYS) regulations, the Town of Gouverneur annually issues a report describing the quality of the drinking water provided to its customers. The purpose of this report is to raise customer understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect drinking water sources as well as providing an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where the Town's water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. As your water supplier, the Town wants customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please direct your question to 287-1940. If you want to learn more, please attend one of the Town's regularly scheduled Board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Gouverneur Municipal office located at 1227 US Hwy 11, Gouverneur.

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This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. Land cover and its associated activities within the assessment area does not increase the potential for contamination. While there are some facilities present, permitted discharges do not likely represent an important threat to source water quality, based on their density in the assessment area or total combined wastewater flows. There is no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Finally, it should be noted that relatively high flow velocities make river drinking water supplies highly sensitive to existing and new source of microbial contamination.

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Barium	No	11/14	0.12	Mg/l	2 MCL	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in blood-pressure.
Sodium (2)	No	10/12	9.3	Mg/L	See Note 2	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
Nitrate	No	6/14	0.22	Mg/L	10 MCL	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	9/14	0.56 Range - (0.0586- 0.661)	Mg/L	AL= 1.3 See Note 1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	9/14	2.5Range - (<0005 - 0.00866)	Mg/L	AL= 15 See Note 1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Total Haloacetic acids (HAA5s) Mono-, di-, trichloroacetic acid Mono-, dibromoacetic acid	No	8/14	24 Range- (19-33)	Ug/L	60 MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

The Town of Gouverneur's East Side had zero violations for Haloacetic acids and Trihalomethanes in 2014. The Haloacetic acids and Trihalomethanes are a by-product of drinking water chlorination.

**IS MY WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2014, the Town system complied with applicable Federal and State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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