

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025***  
***Windham Water District #1***  
***P.O Box 96***  
***Hensonville NY 12439***  
***Public Water Supply #NY1900032***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Windham Water District #1, 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 or any other water quality standard. 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 concerning your drinking water, please contact Paul Rapplelea, Water System Operator, 518-734-4170. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 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 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. 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 Departments 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 280 People through 180 taps. Our water source is from wells and springs. There are two wells at the bus garage, and there is a well and springs at the reservoir. The water is chlorinated for disinfection prior to distribution to homes and businesses.

**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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological 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 some small amounts of 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 Health Department at 607-432-3911.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>
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Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate - Reservoir WTP	NO	4/3/2025	0.36	mg/L	10	10	runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic - Reservoir WTP	NO	4/29/24	3.7	ug/L	10	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium - Reservoir WTP	NO	4/29/24	0.034	mg/L	2000	2000	discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel - Reservoir WTP	NO	4/29/24	0.8	ug/L	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic - Bus Garage WTP	NO	4/29/24	3.6	ug/L	10	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium - Bus Garage WTP	NO	4/29/24	0.017	mg/L	2000	2000	discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride - Bus Garage WTP	NO	4/29/24	0.27	mg/L	2.2	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	NO	8/28/2025	90 <sup>th</sup> 3.2* (0 - 6.4)	ug/L	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	8/28/2025	90 <sup>th</sup> 0.503* (0 - 0.819)	mg/L	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	8/28/2025	15.3	ug/L	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	NO	12/23/2025	12.9	ug/L	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

\* During 2025 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 samples collected. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percentage 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 value detected at your water system. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the 5 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 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.

**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 in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

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

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

As you can see by the table, our system had no 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. All community water systems are required to provide the following information on lead in drinking water.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant people and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Windham Water District #1 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 Kyle Schwarz, Water System Operator, 518-734-4170. 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 ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory, and it can be viewed by appointment by contacting Paul Rapplelea, Water System Operator, 518-734-4170.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2025, our system was compliant with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements except our haloacetic acid sample was collected late.

## **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 those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 several reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy as well as some of the costs associated with both these necessities of everyday 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. When possible, wait until a full load is ready for washing.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ As many of you know, this past winter season was one of the coldest we've had in many years resulting in several water main breaks and houses with frozen and/or broken pipes. To help protect your home and community water system, please take precautionary measures going into the 2026-2027 winter season. Insulating pipes and/or installing heat tape may save you from a costly repair bill.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. To maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary to address these improvements. We ask all our customers to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

The NYS DOH 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 for contamination of 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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a very high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates and a high susceptibility to industrial solvents and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and low intensity residential activities within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our well(s) 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 us, as noted above.