

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022*

***Lawtons Water Company***

*Lawtons, New York*

*Public Water Supply ID# NY1400516*

**INTRODUCTION**

Complying with State regulations, Lawtons Water Company 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 or concerning your drinking water, please contact Tom Wilder, President, 532-5177. 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

**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.

Our water system serves approximately 95 people through 38 service connections. Our water source is Lake Erie supplied through Erie County Water Authority and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. The Erie County Water Authority obtains its water from two sources. The Authority's Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant, in the Town of Evans, draws water from Lake Erie to supply southern Erie County and communities in Cattaraugus County. The Van De Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants deliver an average of 65 million gallons a day to more than one half million people in Western New York. A copy of their Annual Water Quality Report is attached.

**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, lead and copper, trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids. 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 Erie County Health Department at 716-961-6800.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected in your drinking water.

| Table of Detected Contaminants  |                  |                          |                                      |                  |      |                              |  |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------------------|--|
| Contaminant   | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample           | Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)     | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| <b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>   |                  |                          |                                      |                  |      |                              |  |
| Barium  | No               | 02/14/2017<br>08/17/2017 | 99.0<br>81.9-87* <sup>3</sup>        | ug/l             | 2000 | MCL=2000                     | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Nitrate   | No               | 7/15/2020<br>1/27/2020   | 1.26<br>2.11                         | mg/l             | 10   | MCL=10                       | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Lead  | No               | 08/16/2022               | 10.6 ug/l* <sup>1</sup><br>ND – 17.8 | ug/l             | 0    | AL=15                        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Copper  | No               | 08/16/2022               | 69 ug/l* <sup>2</sup><br>ND -96      | ug/l             | 0    | AL=1300                      | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.  |
| Nickel  | No               | 08/17/2017               | 0.6-1.0* <sup>4</sup>                | ug/l             | N/A  | N/A                          | N/A  |
| <b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>   |                  |                          |                                      |                  |      |                              |  |
| <u>Total Halocetic Acids</u><br>Monochloroacetic<br>Dichloroacetic<br>Trichloroacetic<br>Monobromoacetic<br>Dibromoacetic | No               | 08/19/2022               | 13.9                                 | ug/l             | N/A  | MCL=60                       | By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.  |
| <u>Total Trihalomethanes</u><br>Chloroform<br>Bromoform<br>Bromodichloromethane<br>Dibromochloromethane                   | No               | 08/19/2022               | 71                                   | ug/l             | N/A  | MCL=80                       | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| <b>DISINFECTANTS</b>  |                  |                          |                                      |                  |      |                              |  |
| Chlorine Residual   | No               | All Days                 | 0.2-0.8                              | mg/l             | N/A  | MCL=4                        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

#### Notes:

\*1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the five samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the 5 sites tested. At that exceedance site, the house was vacant.

\*2– 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

## 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.

## **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 2022, we did not submit monthly reports from January- July which document residual chlorine levels and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

## **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 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).

## **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 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.

## **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 costs 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 questions.