Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020
Town of Fallsburg Water Department
PO Box 2019
South Fallsburg, New York 12779
Davos / Riverside System
(Public Water Supply ID# 5210302)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Fallsburg Water Department 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 but one of State drinking water health standards. Last year, we conducted tests for multiple contaminants. We detected none of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. 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 Chet Williams Jr, Lab. Director at 845-434-6320. 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 Mondays at 6:00 PM. 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. 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 source is 5 groundwater wells which are located within the Town of Fallsburg. The Source Water Assessment indicates that the Town's source water in minimally susceptible to contamination. During 2020, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is adjusted for pH and disinfected prior to distribution.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 200 people during the winter and approximately 550 people during the summer through approximately 292 service connections. The total water produced in 2020 was 23,031,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 53,701 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 118,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 14,772,000 gallons. Authorized unmetered usage was approximately 7,433,100 gallons. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and other distribution system maintenance. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 825,900 gallons. In order to reduce the amount of unaccounted for water, leak detection and water audit programs are performed annually. Numerous leaks were detected and repaired this year. In 2020, water customers paid a quarterly minimum of $43.86 for 15,000 gallons and were charged $2.96 per thousand gallons above the minimum.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants may 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, is 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 Monticello District Office of the New York State Department of Health Department at 845-794-2045. The number of samples taken for Lead and Copper did not meet the minimum number of samples required.

During 2018 we conducted Lead and Copper testing twice. Testing showed the 90th percentile results were below the current action levels (Copper = 1.3 mg/1 and Lead 0.015 mg). Please see the table below. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the

10 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 90% of the copper values detected in the water system. The lowest and highest sample results are also listed.

Water systems that exceed the lead or copper action level must also monitor for the following water quality parameters within the monitoring period when an action level is exceeded:

• lead; (entry point only)
- copper; (entry point only)
- pH; (measured on-site)
- alkalinity;
- calcium;
- conductivity;
- water temperature; (measured on-site)
- silica (when an inhibitor containing silicate is used); and
- orthophosphate (when an inhibitor containing phosphate is used)

Water quality samples are collected in accordance with the New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5, Subpart 5-1.43(a), and 5-1.43(b). For water systems serving a population below 1000 people, water quality sampling include two (2) water samples from one (1) distribution system sample sites and two (2) water samples from each entry point during each monitoring period when the system exceeds the lead or copper action level. The analysis of water quality samples collected at entry point must include lead and copper.

For additional information related compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule please visit the following:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/regulations/

https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average / Maximum) (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCL/ AL	MCL G	Likely Source of Contamination
*Lead [2]	No	8/2020 8/2020	90th percentile: 0.00295 Range: ND – 0.003 90th percentile: ND Range: ND – ND	mg/L	0.015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper [4 15]	No	8/2020	90th percentile: 0.200.[3] Range: 0.0367 – 0.215	M g/L	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Arsenic [5]	No	12/2019	Davos <0.0010 Riverside 0.0038	mg/L	0.01	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium [6]	No	7/2019 12/2019	Davos 0.211 Riverside 0.427	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [7]	No	11/2020 4/2020	Riverside <0.0500 Davos 0.289	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium [8]	No	12/2019 7/2019	Riverside 9.1 Davos 13.3	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Total Trihalomethane [9]	No	8/2019	5.98	ug/l	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Haloacetic Acid [10]	No	8/2019	1.68	ug/l	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Gross Alpha[11]	No	6/26/19	1.38	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta[12]	No	6/26/19	2.51	pCi/L	4	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Combined radium – 226 and 228[13]	No	4/11/16	0.9	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium – 228 [13]	No	6/26/19	0.78	pCi/L			Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Uranium	No	4/11/16	0.9	ug/L	30		Naturally occurring

Fluoride[14]	No	12/2019 7/2019	Davos <0.200 Riverside ,0.200	mg/L	2.2	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nickel	No	7/2019 12/2019	Davos 0.0008 Riverside 0.0006	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Chloride[16]	No	4/2017	21.45 - Average 21.8 - Maximum 21.1 – 21.8 Range	mg/l	250	N/A	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt Contamination
Sulfate	No	4/2017	21.45 - Average 4.94 - Maximum 4.84 – 4.96 Range	mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring

Notes:

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 24 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 90% of the lead values detected at your water system.

2 - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 24 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 90% of the copper values detected at your water system.

4 - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

5 - Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

6 - Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

7 - Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

8 - 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.

9 - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer

10 - Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

11 - Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

12 - Certain materials are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

13 - Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

14 - Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth

15 – One (1) of the samples tested for Copper exceeded the allowable MCL.

16 - Chloride is essential for maintaining good health. Research has not conclusively demonstrated that human exposure to chloride itself causes adverse health effects, although exposure to high levels of
certain chloride salts has been associated with adverse health effects in humans. For example, high dietary intake of sodium chloride can be a contributing factor to high blood pressure, but this has been attributed mainly to the presence of sodium. The New York State standard for chloride is 250 milligrams per liter, and is based on chloride's effects on the taste and odor of the water

17 - Drinking water containing high concentrations of sulfate can cause short-term intestinal effects in humans. The effects can range from a laxative effect (loose stools) to diarrhea (unusually frequent and liquid bowel movements). Diarrhea is of particular concern in infants, because it can lead to more serious effects such as dehydration. Travelers or new residents, who may change from drinking water with low sulfate concentrations to drinking water with high sulfate concentrations, may experience short term intestinal effects due to sulfate. The New York State standard for sulfate is 250 milligrams per liter

***Lead.** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Town of Fallsburg 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

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.

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

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had exceeded the action level for Copper. To correct this we will make adjustment to the treatment of the water as well as conduct increased sampling during 2019. We have learned through our testing that some other 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?

During 2019, our system was in compliance with all but two of the applicable State drinking water operating and reporting requirements. The number of lead and copper samples returned to the Town by selected customers did not meet the number necessary to be in compliance with the monitoring requirements. To ensure compliance with the State monitoring requirements, different customers will be selected for sampling in 2019.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The New York State Department Health has completed a source water assessment for this water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to our drinking water sources were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination (PCS) and the possibility of this contamination reaching our drinking water source, 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 be contaminated, See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of contaminants that have been detected. The purpose of source water assessment is to provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future. The source water assessment for the Town water sources found that the assessment area contains no discreet potential; source for contamination. Please note that this report only details the possibility for contamination. Our water is tested regularly to ensure that the finished water coming to your home meets New York State drinking water standards. County and State Health Departments will use this information to direct future source water protections activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management and education programs, Further information can be obtained by contacting the Town of Fallsburg, 5410 State Route 42 South Fallsburg, NY or by phone at 845-434-6320.

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.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. 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. This report was prepared by Chet Williams Jr.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Spanish	***French***

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.	Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.
Korean 아래의 보고는 귀하께서 드시는 식수에 대한 중요한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다. 번역을 하시든지 아니면 이 보고를 읽고 이해하시는 분과 말씀하시기를 바랍니다.	***Chinese***