



2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Schreiber Water System Wingdale NY 12594 Public Water Supply ID NY1315971

Introduction

We are pleased to present you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides details about your water source, what it contains, how we treat it, and how it compares to the standards set by State and Federal regulatory agencies. DCWWA works to provide the safest and most dependable drinking water possible. Our personnel conducted tests over 50 different contaminants in 2023, and detected two of those at levels higher than the State allows.

As you were informed at the time, the running annual averages for Combined Radium 226 and 228 and for Gross Alpha Activity exceeded public health standards. We are working with engineers to design upgrades to the treatment system that will be capable of removing radioactive isotopes from Schreiber's water. Major projects like this are expensive, so we are also working with funding agencies to secure grants and low-interest loans to make these upgrades affordable to Schreiber Water customers.

Testing also found odor exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Odor, which has no health effects, can come from many sources. The planned treatment upgrades will help remove odor-causing compounds from the water as well, and we look forward to providing you with more pleasant and drinkable water in the near future.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority at (845) 486-3601. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more about Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority, please visit our website at www.DCWWA.org.

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 or 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 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.

Our water system serves 50 people through 23 service connections. Our water source is groundwater drawn from two drilled wells, which are located within our property off Hillside Avenue. The water is disinfected with chlorine and then transferred to a 19,000-gallon storage tank. Water is fed by gravity through the distribution system.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this water source were evaluated. The State source water assessments include 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. 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 the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future. The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbial and nitrate contamination. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of the wells to a landfill and a permitted discharge facility (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and the residential and agricultural land use and related activities in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. The county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. The source water assessment summary for your system is available by calling the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health at 845-486-3404 and requesting a copy.

Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, synthetic organic compounds, and radiological. 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 Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health at 845-486-3404.

Summary of the Regulated Contaminants Detected in our Water

Disinfectants

Contaminant Name	Sample Location	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected (Range)	Sample Date(s)	Unit	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Sources in drinking water
Chlorine Residual	Entry Point	No	1.18 0.83 - 1.47	1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023	mg/L	4	N/A	Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant Name	Sample Location	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected (Range)	Sample Date(s)	Unit	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Sources in drinking water
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	System Wide	No	1.20	8/22/2023	ug/L	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	System Wide	No	3.50	8/22/2023	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.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant Name	Sample Location	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected (Range)	Sample Date(s)	Unit	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Sources in drinking water
Arsenic	Entry Point	No	1.84	12/13/2023	ug/L	10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	Entry Point	No	0.04	12/13/2023	mg/L	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

Chloride	Entry Point	No	19.85	4/26/2023	mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Copper (1)	System Wide	No	0.088 0.01 - 0.098	7/27/2022 through 7/29/2022	mg/L	Action Level = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Iron	Entry Point	No	19.71 ND - 69	1/12/2023 through 10/30/2023	ug/L	300	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Lead (2)	System Wide	No	2.7 ND - 3.9	7/27/2022 through 7/29/2022	ug/L	Action Level = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	Entry Point	No	5.09 ND - 15.5	1/12/2023 through 10/30/2023	ug/L	300	N/A	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Nitrate (as N)	Entry Point	No	0.31	4/14/2023	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (3)	Entry Point	No	6.85	4/26/2023	mg/L	(See Health Effects)	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	Entry Point	No	117.18 47 - 168	1/18/2023 through 10/30/2023	mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring.

Physical Characteristics

Contaminant Name	Sample Location	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected (Range)	Sample Date(s)	Unit	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Sources in drinking water
Odor (4)	Entry Point	Yes	5.30	4/26/2023	Units	3	N/A	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges; natural sources.
pH	Entry Point	No	7.30	4/26/2023	SU	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.

Radioactive Contaminants (5)

Contaminant Name	Sample Location	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected (Range)	Sample Date(s)	Unit	Regulatory Limit (MCL/MRDL)	MCLG	Sources in drinking water
Beta particle and photo radioactivity from manmade radionucleotides	Entry Point	No	17.93 18.63 14.03 17.75	Quarterly in 2023	pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Combined Radium-226 and Radium-228 (6)	Entry Point	Yes	24.25 22.11 18.73 16.70	Quarterly in 2023	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha Activity (including radium-226 but excluding radon and uranium) (7)	Entry Point	Yes	53.38 50.43 26.48 22.54	Quarterly in 2023	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	Entry Point	No	7.27 7.50 7.75 8.08	Quarterly in 2023	ug/L	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits.

Footnotes

- (1) The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value is the reported value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- (2) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Odor as measured by this standard procedure has no health effects; although several contaminants exert odors when they are present at levels near their MCLs. Odor is an important quality factor affecting the drinkability of water.
- (5) The levels presented represent the Locational Running Annual Averages (LRAAs) calculated from data collected between 2022 and 2023.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.

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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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 to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).
Picograms per liter (pg/L)	Corresponds to one part of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)	A measure of the radioactivity in water.
Millirems per year (mrem/yr)	Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

What does this information mean?

As the table shows, our system had no violations in 2023. Although we have learned through testing that some contaminants are present in our water, all of the regulated contaminants are present at concentrations lower than the levels allowed by the State.

Although testing did not reveal hazardous levels of lead in our system, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home’s plumbing. DCWWA 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2023, our system was compliant with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Long-term exposure to high levels of radionucleotides in drinking water may increase the risk of cancer. 2023 is the second consecutive year in which Combined Radium 226 and 228 and Gross Alpha Activity exceeded their respective MCLs. Some practical measures you can take to reduce your exposure include:

- Using bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- Installing a home water softening system that includes ion exchange (salt regeneration).
- Installing a reverse osmosis treatment process.

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 demands, but source water quantity is an ongoing issue for the Schreiber Water System. There are several reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both 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.
- 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 looking for ways to use less whenever you can. Schreiber Water customers used an average of 67 gallons of water per person per day in 2023, which is nearly double our average customer's daily use. Conservation tips to consider 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. We understand that rising utility bills are a major concern for our customers and our dedicated staff is working hard to provide you with safe and dependable water at the lowest cost possible.