

# Village of Valatie

## **\*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report \*** **Public Water Supply ID# 1000244** **Reporting Year 2020**

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### Introduction

In compliance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, we are providing this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (AWQR) to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality, details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions, please contact the Water Department at (518) 758-1971, [www.water-wastewater@valatievillage.com](mailto:www.water-wastewater@valatievillage.com), or, you may attend any of the regularly scheduled Village Board of Trustees meetings. The Village Board generally meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3211 Church, Valatie, New York at 7:00 p.m.

**Si habla español:** *Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

### Where does our water come from?

Sources of drinking water (tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Water traveling over or through the ground dissolves natural minerals and picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial, inorganic, pesticides/herbicides, organic chemicals, and radioactive contaminants. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations limiting the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Your water system serves over 2,000 individuals through over 700 service connections. Water is drawn and treated on a demand basis from 3 drilled wells and stored in two water standpipes. Pressure comes from the height of water in these standpipes. Water is delivered through a series of interconnected pipes of various composition and size. The wells range in production from approximately 50 to 225 gallons per minute (gpm). The well pumps are operated by an automated control system to meet the demand.

### A Note from The Department of Health.

The New York State Department of Health has completed a Source Water Assessment for this source, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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 the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will be contaminated. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. While nitrates were detected in your water, it should be noted that all drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants from natural sources (see section: **Are there contaminants in our drinking water?** for a list of the contaminants that have been detected). The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, your water is derived from drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high to very high susceptibility to microbes, industrial solvents, other industrial contaminants, and nitrates. The wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of high hydraulic conductivity. Please note that your water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

### Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

Your drinking water is routinely tested for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, gross alpha, radium, lead and copper, synthetic organic compounds, and volatile organic compounds. The State allows testing for some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations do not change frequently. Some data, though representative, are more than one year old. Please note that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may contain at least small amounts of contaminants. Their presence 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 **Columbia County Health Department at (518) 828-3358**.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant (	Violation (Yes/No)	Year of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG (MCL, TT,AL)	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	2020	47.4	ug/l	2000	2000 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	2005	127	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Copper (see note1,2)	No	2020	1.58 (0.2-1.6)	mg/l	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride	No	2020	156	ug/L	n/a	2200 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Lead (see note 1,2)	No	2020	15 (<1-15)	ug/L	0	1.5 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate	No	2020	1.67	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leached from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	No	2020	1.6	ug/l	n/a	n/a	naturally occurring
Sodium (see note 3)	No	2008	52.5	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Erosion of deposits; road salt
Sulfate	No	2008	25	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Zinc	No	2005	44	ug/L	n/a	500 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM	No	2019	10	ug/L	80	80(MCL)	Byproduct of disinfection

**Notes:**

1 - The single number "Level Detected" for lead and copper presented represents the 90th percentile of the sites tested in 2016. 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 and copper values detected at your water system.

2 - The parenthetical levels represent the range of results for all of the sites tested.

3 - Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on very 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.

## **Definitions of Terms from Table:**

**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).

## **What does this information mean?**

The table shows that, with the exception of Copper, any contaminants detected were within determined safe levels.

## **Some Information on Lead and Copper.**

Lead and Copper in levels detected and reported in drinking water are derived from samples taken from individual homes and businesses. Copper, while a potential health concern to some individuals with certain pre-existing conditions (e.g., Wilson's Disease) is also an essential nutrient. The elevated presence in drinking water is generally associated with water quality that can cause leaching of materials from household plumbing and fixtures. Therefore, you should be aware of the materials that are present in your building and take steps to remove any lead-containing piping or fixtures. If you are concerned about your property, lead testing materials and procedures are available from most Environmental Laboratories, as well as most Certified Well Drillers. Presently, the Water System treats the water to combat this condition by means of a food-grade additive. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the materials and conditions inside individual properties.

## **The New York State Department of Health provides the following information:**

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 be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Valatie Water System 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?**

During 2020, your system met applicable State operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms 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).

As for any other detected contaminant, all levels noted were below that which is considered a health risk for the general public by the NYSDOH, according to 10 NYCRR, Subpart 5-1, the law which governs operation of Public Water Systems. If you wish to know if there is any possible effect that any item listed in the table may have on your personal health, you should provide the data to your health care professional, who can consider all issues included in your own personal health status and provide you with information based solely on your individual health profile.

## Why save water?

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 need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during drought, helping to avoid restrictions.
- Like many other resources fresh water resources are finite, and are diminishing with time. Contamination and overuse accelerate this process, which in turn will lead to ever increasing costs, and negative effects to the environment.
- However, and for whatever reason water is consumed, the use will show up on the bill; wasting water is wasting money.

## Ways to avoid wasting it.

- Only run dishwashers/do laundry when machine is full.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet and toilet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste many gallons a day.
- Collect rainwater for watering plants wherever possible - rainwater is better for plants than treated water;
- Do not over water lawns and gardens. Daytime watering results in rapid evaporation and sun damage.
- Install a showerhead valve and turn water off while lathering and scrubbing; only run to rinse. The showerhead valve will keep the water mix at your desired temperature while off.

## A Word about VALVES!

**Check the valve before the water meter in your building and know how to use it; if a leak occurs, you should be able to close the valve quickly to minimize water loss and leak damage to your property. If the valve is old, especially if it is of the “Gate type” (round handle) you should plan to replace it at the earliest convenience. Valves should be tested at least semi-annually to see that they stop the flow of water. Remember, as a property owner, it is your responsibility to keep your pipes and valves in proper working order and everything past the outside shut-off belongs to you.**

**The outside water shut-off valve is provided for the use and convenience of the Water Department.** It cannot and should not be relied upon to shut water off to a building in the event of a leak or other emergency. The Water Department does not provide 24-hour service and

may not be able to quickly shut the water off when leaks develop. Again, all pipes between the outside shut-off valve, into and including all interior pipes, are the property and responsibility of the property owner; the Water Department DOES NOT SERVICE or REPAIR these pipes.

### What are the costs? Where does the money go?

The cost for water in the Village is presently \$14.00 for the first 7,500 gallons, and \$4.00 per 1000 gallons for all additional consumption. Town of Kinderhook Water district customers pay approximately 3 times the Village amount. Metered use charges are assessed quarterly and pay for providing water on a continuous basis; maintenance and repair (including pumps, pipes, buildings, etc.) electricity, (the single largest cost) disinfection and other treatment; laboratory quality analyses; personnel; administrative costs (reports to state and federal agencies, billing, compliance, licenses and certification) and other day to day operational costs. There is also a unit charge which is a set **rate**, but the **number** of units for which a property is charged depends upon building type, building size, number of people the building accommodates, types of businesses, and other factors. These charges pay for bonds for capital improvements.

**It should be noted that improvements made to the Water System since last report include upgrading the pump starting system to soft starts, on Well 1 and 2 which will save energy and incur less wear and tear on the pumps at startup.**

### And in closing..

We ask that all customers help us protect your drinking water source. If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this report, please do not hesitate to contact the Water Department or the Columbia County Health Department. Also, please visit the Water-Wastewater page of the Village website ([valatievillage.com](http://valatievillage.com)). This page provides useful information about various topics concerning the water system and is updated throughout the year as new issues arise.