

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023**  
**Indian Lake Water District #2**  
**PO Box 730 Indian Lake, NY 12842**  
**Public Water Supply ID NY2000126**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Indian Lake annually issues 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 standards. 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 Water Superintendent Pat Mahoney at (518) 648-5303. We want our customers to be informed about their water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 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.

The sources of water for Indian Lake Water District #2 are four drilled wells. The water from the wells is pumped into the water plant where it is pre-treated with sodium hydroxide and chlorine before it is pumped through iron and manganese removal filters. The water is disinfected with chlorine before it flows into the 42,000-gallon storage tank below the treatment building. The water is pumped into the distribution system with 2 - 250 gpm pumps. There is an emergency generator to run the water plant in the event of power failure. The distribution system consists of mostly 6" and 8" cast iron piping and some AC piping. There are two storage tanks; a 100,000-gallon glass lined tank and a 150,000-gallon steel tank located on Tower Road. We serve 900 people through 450 service connections.

The NYS Dept. of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The assessment includes an assigned susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each possible source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the ground to the wells. The susceptibility rating is only a rough estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water and it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. As mentioned earlier in this report, our water is derived from drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. No significant sources of contamination were identified. The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities.

**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 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 New York State Health Department (518) 891-1800.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	no	2023	0.0091	mg/L	2	2(MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	no	2023	0.31	mg/L	n/a	10 MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic systems & erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	no	2019	0.01	mg/L	n/a	5 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; mining waste
Sulfate	no	2019	6.63	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Chloride	no	2019	72.1	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium	no	2022	45	mg/L	n/a	See Note 4	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Lead (Distribution System)	no	2023	0.0035 <sup>1</sup> ND – 0.0125 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Distribution System)	no	2023	0.75 <sup>1</sup> 0.18 – 0.8 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (Source Water)	no	2021	ND – 0.0011mg/L	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Source Water)	no	2021	ND – 0.088 mg/L	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals</b>							
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	no	2023	1.24	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	no	2023	1.72	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	no	2023	46.4 – 46.7 <sup>3</sup>	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	no	2023	36.0 – 46.3 <sup>3</sup>	ug/L	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 226	no	2020	0.6	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	no	2020	1.2	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Notes:**

- 1 - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead or copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value.
- 2 - The levels presented represent the range of the lead and copper samples collected. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any location.
- 3 - The levels represent the range of disinfection byproducts collected in our system at two locations.
- 4 - 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.

**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).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter** is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l)** corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

EPA Test Method 533 is used to measure PFOA and PFOS which are regulated perfluoroalkyl analytes with an MCL level of 10 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or 10 parts of liquid per 1 trillion parts of liquid. As part of EPA Test Method 533 a total of 25 analytes are also measured as part of that test. Unregulated perfluoroalkyl analytes that were analyzed in our water samples and had detectable levels are shown in the Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances table provided below.

Unregulated Perfluoroalkyl Substances					
MCL level for each Unregulated PFAS Substance = 50,000 ng/L					
Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCGL or Health Advisory Level <sup>1,2</sup>
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHPA)	No	2023	0.621	ng/L	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHXA)	No	2023	0.859	ng/L	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	No	2023	3.73	ng/L	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPEA)	No	2023	1.08	ng/L	NA
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHXS)	No	2023	0.718	ng/L	NA

<sup>1</sup> USEPA Health Advisory Levels identify the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water at which adverse health effects and/or aesthetic effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations. Health Advisory Levels are not to be construed as legally enforceable federal standards and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

<sup>2</sup> All perfluoroalkyl substances, besides PFOA and PFOS, are considered Unspecified Organic Contaminants (UOC) which have an MCL = 50,000 ng/L.

### WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, we had no violations in 2023. In 2021, we had an Action Level exceedance for copper. As a result of this Action Level Exceedance, we began adding a zinc orthophosphate corrosion control inhibitor to our water. 2023 sampling results indicate that the corrosion control inhibitor is doing its job and both lead and copper levels were below Action Levels.

We have learned through our testing that other contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were below the level allowed by the state. Even though the action level for lead was not exceeded at any of our sampling locations, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water: Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Indian Lake Water District 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 Water Superintendent Pat Mahoney at (518) 648-5303. 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>.

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

Last year, our system was in compliance with all applicable New York State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

### 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. 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 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.