



**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
for the Year 2020  
"THE WATER WE DRINK"  
WAYNE COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY  
3377 Daansen Road, Walworth, N.Y. 14568**

For water customers in the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority's **Sodus-Wolcott-Butler-Huron Consolidated Service Area (CSA)** (PWS ID #NY5801247) supplied by the Village of Sodus, located in the Towns of Huron, Sodus, Wolcott and Butler.

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mr. Martin J. Aman, Executive Director, Phone: (315) 986-1929, Fax: (315) 986-1687 or email: [maman@wcwsa.org](mailto:maman@wcwsa.org). We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The meetings are held on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority building, 3377 Daansen Road, Walworth. Or you may visit our website at [www.wcwsa.org](http://www.wcwsa.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, 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The state Health Department's and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Sodus supply comes from two sources. One is Lake Ontario, a surface water source, which goes through a filtration process and has chlorine (for disinfection) and fluoride (to assist in the prevention of dental cavities) added. The second, a ground water source, is a well located south of the Village of Sodus on Route 88, where chlorine and fluoride are added. Storage and pressure in the Sodus supply system are provided by one 1,500,000 gallon concrete water tank. During 2020, this system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for the groundwater source for this system, 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 become contaminated. 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 in the future.

As mentioned before, some of this water is derived from one drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, metals, pesticides, petroleum products, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of pasture in the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates the Village of Sodus well as being susceptible to microbials, this water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

This water system serves approximately 6,291 people through 2,097 service connections. The amount of water purchased was approximately 207.1 million gallons. The total amount of water delivered to customers in 2020, including wholesale customers Village of Sodus Point and Cayuga County Water Authority was approximately 165 million gallons., with unsold water in this area used for firefighting and flushing of mains, as well as lost water through leaks, slowed meters, unauthorized use of water, etc. In 2020, water customers were charged \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons of water, and a \$25.00 basic service charge per quarter. This rate would result in an annual water charge of \$330.00 for a customer using 50,000 gallons per year, an average use for a family of three. \*\*\*The basic service charge reflects a ¾" – 1 ½" meter; meters larger than 1 ½" have a basic service charge based on size and type of meter.

## **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 Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority and its suppliers send their samples to independent New York State certified water quality testing laboratories. The accompanying table 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 reasonably be 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 log on to EPA's Drinking Water Website [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/). If you have questions or concerns about the quality of your water, please feel free to contact the Water Authority or the local office of the NYSDOH.

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- The Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority is required to collect and analyze at least eight (8) total coliform samples from various points within the Sodus-Wolcott-Huron-Butler Consolidated Service Area per month. No samples exceeded New York State Health Department of EPA drinking water standards.

The accompanying table shows the **detected results only** of monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 20, and any detected results taken in the past 5 years.

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation Yes/No</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Date of Sample</u>	<u>WCWSA</u>	<u>Village of Sodus (Lake Supply)</u>	<u>Village of Sodus (Well Supply)</u>	<u>Likely Source</u>
Barium	mg/l	No	2	2	2020	N/A	0.0192	0.141 2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos	MFL	No	7	7	2020	4	N/A	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement; watermains; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes *footnote #4	ug/l	No	N/A	80	2020	49 (12.7-60)	21.9 (5.7-35.2)	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) *footnote 4	ug/l	No	N/A	60	2020	20.7 (10-28.5)	15.0 (3.4-25.6)	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Copper *footnote #1	ug/l	No	1300	AL=1300	2018	170 (ND-747)	170 (ND - 747)	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposit leaching from wood preservatives
Lead *footnote #2	ug/l	No	15	AL=15	2018	5.7 (ND-130)	5.7 (ND-130)	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	No	0	15	2020	NA	0.263	0.66	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	pCi/L	No	0	50	2020	NA	0.124	1.32	Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions
Uranium	ug/l	No	0	30	2020	NA	0.252	0.36	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	pCi/L	No	N/A	5	2020	NA	0.336	0.47	Erosion of natural deposits

Radium 228	pCi/L	No	N/A	5	2020	NA	0.148	0.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity *footnote #3	NTU	No	N/A	NTU=5	2020	NA	Max 2.38	N/A	Soil Runoff
Turbidity *footnote #3	NTU	No	N/A	TT=95% of samples < or =	2020	NA	100% 0.03-0.23	N/A	Soil Runoff
Fluoride	mg/l	No	2.2	2.2	2020	NA	0.5-1.3	0.3-1.4	Natural and additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	mg/l	No	5	10	2020	NA	0.62 (1/20/20)	3.0 4/6/2020	Run off from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits

**\*footnote #1 (Copper)** – This level represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 32 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 32 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 0.17 MG/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

**\*footnote #2 (Lead)** -The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 32 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at 3 of the sites tested.

**\*footnote #3 (Turbidity)** - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. At no time in 2020 did the turbidity exceed 1.0 NTU. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

**\*footnote #4 (LRAA)** - This level represents the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) calculated quarterly from data collected.

**Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person’s total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced. Please visit our website, [www.wcwsa.org](http://www.wcwsa.org) for more information on lead.

**Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing 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.

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS IN 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.

**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.

**Not Sampled (NS)**: Not Sampled

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)**: A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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 per 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)**: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)**: A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

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?**

During 2020, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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.

### **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

This system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the Village of Sodus before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the Village of Sodus monitors fluoride on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2020 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 92 % of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

### **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 transmission mains, 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. 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 water off while shaving and/or 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 can 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. Then check the meter after 15 minutes; if it moved, you have a leak.
- Replace older fixtures with water-saving devices.
- When washing your car, use a bucket for washing and turn on the hose only for rinsing.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Curb lawn watering – water your lawn only when necessary, and water between the hours of 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to hold water for your plants.
- If you have a swimming pool, fill it during the night when demands on power and water production systems are less.

## **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Authority continued to work on the distribution system maintenance program. This included flushing of dead end water mains, maintenance and painting of fire hydrants, monitoring the cross-connection back flow prevention program with three certified backflow testers, exercising of main line and gate valves throughout the system, and continuation of the residential water meter replacement program within the Authority's service area.

## **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 and systems, which are the heart of our community. In addition to helping us with the conservation measures as outlined in this report, we also ask for your co-operation in reporting any unusual or suspicious activity around any of our water facilities, including tanks, hydrants, pump stations, etc. We encourage you to notify us immediately at (315) 986-1929 if you observe any suspicious activities, or if you notice any new or unusual wet spots or other signs that may indicate a leak in the water system. As always, please feel free to call at any time if you have any questions or concerns about your water supply or our operation in general.