

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019**  
**Westport Water District**  
**Town of Westport**  
**PO Box 465 Westport, NY 12993**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 1500296)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Westport 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 operator John Crandall at (518) 962-4419. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, we would be pleased to discuss any drinking water issues in person or please feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM and the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:00 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 system serves approximately 900 people through 400 service connections. The water system serving Westport consists of two upland springs, Pooler and Peck, which are located approximately 1.5 miles west of the hamlet. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

The NYS Dept. of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. Based on the analysis of available information for the spring sources, there are no water quality concerns found in the assessment area. No land cover water quality concerns, permitted discharges, or other discrete facilities were identified in the assessment area.

**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, 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 (1-800-426-4791) 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 Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate	no	2019	ND	mg/L	n/a	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic systems & erosion of natural deposits
Iron	no	2019	0.03	mg/L	n/a	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Sodium	no	2019	3.2	mg/L	n/a	See note 4	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Copper	no	2018	1.0 <sup>1</sup> 0.21 – 1.1 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	no	2018	0.0032 <sup>1</sup> ND – 0.0032 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 228 & 226	no	2017	0	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	no	2017	0	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	no	2019	5.0 – 17.0 <sup>3</sup>	ug/L	na	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.
Haloacetic Acids	no	2018	4.6 – 5.1 <sup>3</sup>	ug/L	na	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> – 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 and 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.

<sup>2</sup> – The levels presented represent a range of the samples collected. The action level was exceeded for copper at 1 of the sites sampled. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any site sampled.

<sup>3</sup> – The levels represent a range of disinfection byproducts collected in our system at two locations.

<sup>4</sup> - 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.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no water quality violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

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 Town of Westport 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?**

We are in full compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. We did not receive any violations during 2019.

### **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 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.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order 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 in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.