

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021

Village of Whitney Point
2612 Liberty Street, P.O. Box 729
Whitney Point, NY 13862
Public Water Supply ID# NY 0301683 TDD# 1 800 662 1220

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Whitney Point, 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 has never violated 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 Adam Wells, Water Superintendent, at (607) 692-4021. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm, in the Town of Triangle Municipal Building located at 2612 Liberty St., Whitney Point, and N.Y. 13862.

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, 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 a population of 1100 through 427 metered service connections. The Village relies exclusively upon groundwater for its source of supply. Our Main St. well-field has 3 wells and is located on the West side of the Village. A second well-field, Whitney Acres, is located on Rt. 11 northwest of the Village. The second source has 4 wells, two are used to help supply the Village and two are utilized as a back-up source. All water produced by both well fields is disinfected by injection of sodium hypochlorite solution before entering the distribution system. Any water not immediately utilized by our customers is then stored in a glass-lined storage tank located east of the Village on State Rte. 26.

An independent consultant for New York State has completed a source water assessment for our municipality. A summary of this report has been completed by the Broome County Health Department and is attached to this report. The complete report can be reviewed at the water department office.

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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, and emerging 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 Broome County Health Department (607) 778-2887.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no 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.

EMERGING ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctansulfonic acid (PFOS), and 1,4 Dioxane (1,4-D)

PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-D are relatively ubiquitous in the environment due to their historical widespread use and persistence. The New York State Health Department has instituted regulations requiring water systems to test for these contaminants.

PFOA and PFOS have been used in a variety of consumer and industrial products as surface coatings and/or protectants because of their nonstick properties. Research indicates that these compounds bioaccumulate in various organisms, including fish and humans.

1,4-D has been largely used as a solvent stabilizer for chemical processing but can also be found as a purifying agent in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals as well as a contaminant in ethoxylated surfactants commonly used in consumer cosmetics, detergents, and shampoos. Research indicates that this chemical does not bioaccumulate in the food chain.

We are informing you that although our testing detected PFOA once in our Whitney Acres Wells at an extremely low level, it did not exceed the MCL set forth by the New York State Health Department. These compounds were not detected in any other samples collected in 2021.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2021 our system was in compliance with applicable 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 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 up 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. Please call our office if you have questions at (607) 692-4021.

The Village of Whitney Point is an equal opportunity employer.

Village of Whitney Point
 NY0301683
 AWQR Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment 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. While nitrate and other inorganic contaminants were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from five drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated the three Main Street wells as having a high to very high susceptibility to nitrate and microbials, specifically enteric bacteria, enteric viruses and protozoa. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and residential sewage disposal and septic systems in the surrounding area. Petroleum products have also been given a high rating due to the storage of vehicle and heating fuels in the village. While no significant sources of contamination have been identified in the assessment area, the wells have also been given a medium-high susceptibility rating for other chemicals as noted in the table below. These ratings are warranted because the wells draw from an unconfined productive aquifer that may not provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

SUSCEPTIBILITY TABLE – Main Street Wells			
CONTAMINANT	WELL PW#1	WELL PW#2	WELL PW#3
Cations/Anions (Salts)	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Enteric Bacteria	High	High	High
Enteric Viruses	High	High	High
Halogenated Solvents	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Herbicides/Pesticides	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Metals	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Nitrate	High	High	High
Other Industrial Organics	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Petroleum Products	High	High	High
Protozoa	High	High	High

The assessment has rated the two Whitney Acres wells as having a medium susceptibility to nitrate and microbials, specifically enteric bacteria, enteric viruses and protozoa. These ratings are due to the proximity of the wells to residential sewage disposal and

septic systems, as well as agricultural land use in the surrounding area. All other contaminant categories have been rated low as noted in the table below. Based on the source water review, these wells draw from a confined aquifer that can provide a measure of protection from potential contamination.

SUSCEPTIBILITY TABLE – Whitney Acres Wells		
CONTAMINANT	WHITNEY ACRES WELL #4	WHITNEY ACRES WELL #5
Cations/Anions (Salts)	Low	Low
Enteric Bacteria	Medium	Medium
Enteric Viruses	Medium	Medium
Halogenated Solvents	Low	Low
Herbicides/Pesticides	Low	Low
Metals	Low	Low
Nitrate	Medium	Medium
Other Industrial Organics	Low	Low
Petroleum Products	Low	Low
Protozoa	Medium	Medium

While the source water assessment rates our wells as being moderately to highly susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets 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 the water supplier.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS - Village of Whitney Point

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Location	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	No	Main St. Wells Whitney Acres Wells	8/26/19	0.147 0.238	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead ²	No	Distribution	9/2020	4.5 (ND-7.4)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ²	No	Distribution	9/2020	0.362 (0.0414-0.393)	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	Main St. Wells Whitney Acres Wells	9/27/21	1.13 ND	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium ³	No	Main St. Wells Whitney Acres Wells	9/27/21	118 47.8	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Disinfection Byproducts								
Total Trihalomethanes ⁴	No	Distribution	9/27/21	11.3	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Emerging Organic Contaminants								
PFOA	No	Whitney Acres Wells	2/17/21	1.15	ng/l	N/A	10	Released into the environment through widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Radiological Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	No	Main St. Wells Whitney Acres Wells	9/12/16	ND 2.1	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-226	No	Main St. Wells Whitney Acres	9/12/16	0.872 0.595	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Notes:								
2	The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 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							
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							
4	This level represents the total levels of the following contaminants: chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, bromoform.							
Definitions:								
<u>Action Level (AL):</u> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a								
<u>Non-Detects (ND):</u> Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.								
<u>Milligrams per liter (mg/l):</u> Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).								
<u>Micrograms per liter (ug/l):</u> Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).								
<u>Nanograms per liter (ng/l):</u> Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).								
<u>Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):</u> A measure of the radioactivity in water.								