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Town of Gorham
P.O. Box 224
Gorham, NY 14461

2020 Town of Gorham Annual Water Quality Report

Public Water Supply ID#: 3401170

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The Town of Gorham 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. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to NYS Standards. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

Where does my water come from, and how is it treated?

The Town of Gorham Water Department serves approximately 4950 people through 1560 connections in the Towns of Gorham and Hopewell. The water supply for the Town of Gorham consists of one primary source and two secondary sources. The main source of drinking water is Canandaigua Lake. The surface water from the lake is piped into the Gorham Water Treatment Plant where it is treated using a Diatomaceous Earth Filtration System and Chlorination to remove turbidity and microorganisms. The water is also treated with ultraviolet disinfection equipment. The Hopewell Water District and the Town of Seneca provide our back-up sources of water. The back up sources are purchased for water emergencies. The Hopewell system uses surface water and the Seneca system uses groundwater. The back-up systems were minimally used during the 2020 year during water main breaks.

Canandaigua Lake

The NYS Department of Health completed a source water assessment of our water. This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for protozoa, phosphorus, DBP (disinfection byproduct) precursors, and pesticide contamination. There is also a moderate density of sanitary wastewater discharges, but the ratings for the individual discharges do not result in elevated susceptibility ratings. However, it appears that the total amount of wastewater discharged to surface water in this assessment area is high enough to further raise the potential for contamination (particularly for protozoa). There are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources.

Water Treatment Facility

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 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.

Annual Water Usage and Cost

The Town of Gorham had an annual water usage of 181,873,000 gallons in 2020. We successfully delivered 121,233,468 gallons to customers. The annual water loss for 2020 was 60,639,532 gallons. All but 26,274,994 gallons have been accounted for. Some loss was due to water main failures, frozen meters and services, Fire Department usage, use by churches, flushing hydrants, etc. Unaccounted losses were 14.4 % this year. For the year of 2020 the average cost of water, per family, was $400.00 per year.

Water Conservation

Water conservation helps the environment by preserving this natural resource. You can conserve water by:

- Checking for and repairing leaks inside and out.
- Checking your toilet for leaks (put a few drops of food coloring in the tank, if the color shows up in the bowl within a few minutes, you have a leak) Making repairs can save 30,000 gallons of water a year.

- Replacing older fixtures with water saving showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet dams, or low flush toilets.
- Using swimming pool covers to minimize evaporation
- Watering lawns less frequently and preferably early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- If you use an automatic dishwasher, waiting to run it until it is loaded to capacity.

TESTING RESULTS FOR 2020—TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

As you review the results, keep in mind 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 at 1-800-426-4791. As state regulations require, the Town of Gorham routinely monitors your drinking water for various contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds. The contaminants detected in your drinking water are included in the following table. The State allows us to monitor 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.

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Date Collected	Water Result Average/range	Violation?	Typical Source of Contamination
Turbidity (Before Treatment)	NTU	TT=5.0	N/A	September 2020	3.1**	NO	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity (at filters)	NTU	TT=95% of samples <1 NTU	N/A	1/2020-12/2020	0.16 (0.12-0.17) 100% <1 NTU	NO	Soil Runoff.
Radioactivity							
Gross alpha	pCi/L	15	0	12/2013	None Detected	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226	pCi/L	5***	0	12/2013	None Detected	NO	Some people who drink water containing Radium 226 in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Radium 228	pCi/L	5***	0	12/2013	None Detected	NO	Some people who drink water containing Radium 228 in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Inorganic Chemicals							
Antimony	ug/l	6	6	11/2020	2.0	NO	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder.
Barium	mg/l	2	2	11/2020	0.025	NO	Discharge from drilling washes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	mg/l	0.1	0.1	11/2020	0.0029	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	mg/l	N/A	N/A	11/2020	0.0013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	ug/l	50	50	11/2020	1.1	NO	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines.
Copper	mg/l	AL=1.3	1.3	8/2020	*1 (0.0046-1.1)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	ug/l	AL=15	0	8/2020	*5.0 (ND-5.4)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection By-products							
Total Trihalomethanes Stage 2	ug/l	80	N/A	Quarterly 2020	48 (24-82)****	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids Stage 2	ug/l	60	N/A	Quarterly 2020	37 (20-89)****	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	N/A	Two positive samples/month	0	Monthly 2020	July, November positive samples	NO	Naturally present in the environment.

*During 2020 we collected and analyzed 21 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90th percentile of the 21 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 the lead values detected at our water system. One site exceeded the action level for lead. The action level for copper was not exceeded.
**Highest monthly average.
***MLC for combined Radium 226 & 228. A MCL violation occurs when the annual composite of four quarterly samples or the average of the analysis of four quarterly samples exceeds the MCL.
****This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

Definitions

MCL - (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
AL - (Action Level) - The concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCLG - (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as possible.
MRDL - (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) - 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.
MRDLG - (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) - 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.
Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system.
TT - (Treatment Technique) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
pCi/L - (Picocuries per liter) - The measure of radioactivity in water.
NTU - (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
mg/l - (Milligrams per liter) - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
ug/l - (Micrograms per liter) - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of water (parts per billion - ppb).
ND - Not Detected.
NA - Not Applicable.

Discussion of Testing Results

As you can see from the table, we had no violations this year. 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, 1-800-426-4791.

The Town of Gorham is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, call Greg Coston at 585-394-1580 or the NYSDOH at 315-789-3030.

System Upgrades

In the 2020 year, the Town of Gorham sandblasted, cleaned, and coated the Raw Water Well, and replaced the pump for the diatomaceous earth tank.

In 2021, the Town plans to replace the raw water pump and continue maintenance on the water system.

Questions regarding these upgrades can be directed to Greg Coston, Chief Operator at PO Box 224, Gorham, NY 14461, or call 585-394-1580.

GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in opportunities to become more involved with your water supply, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Commission holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of January, March, June, September, and December. For more information contact Jim Abraham or Gordy Frieda at the Canandaigua Hurley Building, 205 Saltonstall Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424 or 585-396-5060.