

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025**  
**Sawkill Road / Cherry Hill Water District**  
**1 Town Hall Drive – Lake Katrine, New York 12449**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 5530046)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Sawkill Road / Cherry Hill Water District 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 your 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. 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 **John Rose, Water Superintendent**, at **845-382-1833** or the **Ulster County Health Department at 845-340-3010**. If you would prefer contacting us via e-mail, our address is **watersewer@townofulster.ny.gov**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held at **7:00 p.m.** on the **third Thursday** of each month at the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Drive in Lake Katrine, New York.

**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 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 and the FDA’s regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is drawn from wells, which are located on Fording Place Road and Parish Lane in Lake Katrine. The water is pumped from the wells to the treatment plant where it is softened and chlorine and potassium permanganate are added to enhance the iron removal process as it passes through the Ferrosand “cr” filters. The water is disinfected again with chlorine as it leaves the plant. During 2025, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

Through an agreement with the City of Kingston’s Board of Water Commissioners, the Ulster Water District purchased an average of 700,000 gallons of water per day from the Kingston Water Department in 2025. Some of this water is blended with water produced at our Ulster Water plant and is part of the total gallons of water purchased by the Sawkill Road/Cherry Hill water district listed below under facts and figures. A copy of the City of Kingston’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available by contacting the Ulster Water Department at 845-382-1833.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves 300 customers through 118 service connections. The total water purchased for the year was 18,411,207 gallons or a daily average of 50,442 gallons. The highest single day total was 112,236 gallons on April 20th. The amount of water delivered to customers was 17,389,792. In 2025 there was an unaccounted for water loss total of approximately 5%. Unaccountable water loss comes from various sources such as, but not limited to, water main breaks, main flushing, street sweeping and firefighting. Water rates were \$30.50 for the first 5000 gallons or portion thereof and 5,001 gallons and above cost \$6.29 per thousand gallons or any portion thereof.

**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, total trihalomethanes, 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.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
Contaminant	Violation Yes / No	Date of Sample	Level Detected/ Average (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL,TT or AL	Likely Source of Contaminant
<b>Lead (1)</b>	No	9/18/24	2.4 (<1.0-17)	ug/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Copper (2)</b>	No	9/18/24	980 (<10-1500)	ug/L	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Sodium (3)</b>	No	12/16/14	86.1	mg/L	N/A	See footnote #3	Naturally occurring; Water softeners; Road salt; Animal waste.
<b>TTHM's stage 2 Trihalomethanes (5)</b>	YES	2025	87.23 (64.1-107)	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By product of drinking water chlorination
<b>HAA5's stage 2 Haloacetic Acid</b>	No	2025	20.75 (15-28.1)	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Turbidity (4)</b>	No	2025	.25	NTU	NA	TT= <1NTU	Soil Run off
<b>Barium</b>	No	10/09/2024	83	ug/L	2000	2000	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
<b>Nitrate</b>	No	6/26/2025	<0.25	mg/L	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nickel</b>	No	10/09/2024	1.1	ug/L	N/A	N/A	

**Notes:**

- 1) 1-The level represents the 90th percentile of the 20 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. Out of the 20 samples that were collected the 90th percentile value was 2.4 ug/L. Although the 90th percentile level did not exceed the action level, the action level for lead was exceeded at one of the 20 samples. Please see below for more information on lead under “What does this information mean”.
- 2) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 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 copper values detected at our water system. Out of the 20 samples that were collected the 90th percentile value was 980 ug/l. The action level for copper was exceeded at one of the 20 sample sites.
- 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 restricted sodium diets.
- 4) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity

can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Of the 104 tests taken in 2025 the average turbidity measurement was .25 NTU. State regulations require that 95% of turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.30 NTU and that all turbidity results are less than 1 NTU.

- 5) This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected. Testing results for 2025 indicated that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM's. The Standard is 80 ug/L. At this time we will continue to do quarterly samples in 2026. For more information please see "What does this information Mean" below.

**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.

**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).

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a drinking water disinfection 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 health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

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 Ulster County Health Department at 340-3010.

**What Does This Information Mean?**

What are trihalomethanes?

- Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that are formed in drinking water during disinfection when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. They are disinfection byproducts and include the individual chemicals chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors.

- Disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses, and chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. All public water systems that use chlorine as a disinfectant contain trihalomethanes to some degree.

What are the health effects of trihalomethanes?

- Some studies suggest that people who drank water containing trihalomethanes for long periods of time (e.g., 20 to 30 years) have an increased risk of certain health effects. These include an increased risk for cancer and for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. The methods used by these studies could not rule out the role of other factors that could have resulted in the observed increased risks. In addition, other similar studies do not show an increased risk for these health effects. Therefore, the evidence from these studies is not strong enough to conclude that trihalomethanes were a major factor contributing to the observed increased risks for these health effects. Studies of laboratory animals show that some trihalomethanes can cause cancer and adverse reproductive and developmental effects, but at exposures much higher than exposures that could result through normal use of the water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the information from the human and animal studies and concluded that while there is no causal link between disinfection byproducts (including trihalomethanes) and human health effects, the balance of the information warranted stronger regulations that limit the amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water, while still allowing for adequate disinfection. The risks for adverse health effects from trihalomethanes in drinking water are small compared to the risks for illness from drinking inadequately disinfected water.

What does this mean?

- This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

The Town of Ulster Water Department will continue to be taking quarterly samples testing for disinfection byproducts in your district. The Water Department will also be routinely flushing fire hydrants throughout the district. The flushing should lower the THM levels in the distribution system.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Town of Ulster Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Ulster Water Department at (845) 382-1833. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> .

**INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and nonpotable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and have made it publicly accessible by visiting <https://www.townofulster.ny.gov/departments/water-department/> . Your water district has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines. If you have any question or concerns regarding the Lead

Service Line Inventory please contact the Town of Ulster Water Department at (845) 382-1833.

### **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 Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

### **Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Operations?**

During 2025 our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **Why Save Water and How Do We Avoid Wasting It?**

Although our area is very fortunate to have access to a water supply which more than meets our demands, conservation efforts by both the town and the consumer are prudent in deterring increasing costs. As a consumer you can participate in this water conservation effort. The following are some ideas that can be directly applied to your individual homes: 1) Use water-saving, flow-restricting shower heads and low flow faucets (aerators): 2) Repair dripping faucets and toilets that seem to flush by themselves: 3) Replace your toilet with a low flush model or place a brick in your tank to reduce the volume used on each flush: 4) Water your garden and lawn only when necessary. Remember that a layer of mulch in the flower beds and garden is not only aesthetically pleasing but will help retain moisture: 5) Water your lawn after 6:00pm, as this prevents water loss due to evaporation: 6) When washing your car don't let the hose run continuously; and 7) When brushing your teeth, or when shaving or shampooing your hair try to avoid running the water unnecessarily; and lastly try whenever possible to wash clothes and run the dishwasher only when you have a full load.

### **Source Water Assessment:**

The New York State Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for Well #2 and Well #3 of this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to these drinking water sources 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 source water, but it **does not** mean the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future.

The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facility (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government); a hazardous waste facility; a toxic chemical release facility; and low intensity residential activities in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to 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 at the number listed above.

### **System Improvements:**

01/2025 Replaced Pilots and rebuilt altitude valve at Cherry Hill Pit.

01/2025 Rebuilt Valve at Cherry Hill Tower.

09/2025 Flushed fire hydrants throughout the district.

### **Security:**

This water system has increased preventive security measures to protect the water supply from vandalism. The public can also assist us by reporting any suspicious activities around water department facilities or properties.

**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, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office if you have any questions.*