

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Town of Ulster Water District
1 Town Hall Drive – Lake Katrine, New York 12449
(Public Water Supply ID# 5503390)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Ulster 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 we had a monitoring violation in the Ulster Water District. Please see below under “What does this information mean” for more information. 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, Town of Ulster 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, 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 and the FDA’s regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water as well, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is drawn from three 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 2023, our system did not experience any restrictions of our water source.

Through an agreement with the City of Kingston’s Board of Water Commissioners, the Ulster Water District purchased a total of 700,000 gallons of water per day from the Kingston Water Department. Some of this water is blended with water pumped from our Ulster Water plant on Fording Place Road and is part of the total gallons produced by the Ulster Water District listed below under facts and figures. A copy of the Kingston Water Departments’ Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available by contacting the Ulster Water Department at the numbers listed above or the Kingston Water Department.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 5500 customers through 1690 service connections. The total water produced by the Ulster Water District in calendar year 2023 was 287,994,372 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 789,026 gallons. The highest single day total was 1,202,300 gallons on June 2nd. The total amount the Ulster Water Department purchased from the City of Kingston’s Water Department in 2023 was 223,498,350 gallons or an average of 612,324 gallons per day. The amount of water consumed by metered customers was 242,164,637 gallons. In 2023 there was an unaccounted-for water loss total of approximately 16%. Unaccountable water loss can be attributed to various sources, including but not limited to, water distribution leaks, street sweeping, firefighting and training. In 2023, water rates were as follows: 1st 5000 gallons or any portion thereof \$28.25 Over 5,000 gallons and up to 200,000 gallons = \$3.87 / thousand. Over 200,000 gallons = \$4.87 / thousand.

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 compounds 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.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
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
Lead (1)	No	9/22/21	2.1 (<1.0-4.1)	ug/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (2)	No	9/22/21	250 (<10-510)	ug/L	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (3)	No	12/16/14	86.1	mg/L	N/A	See footnote #3	Naturally occurring; Water softeners; Road Salt; Animal waste.
TTHM's (4) Trihalomethanes stage 2	No	2023	67.75 (30-100)	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5's (4) Haloacetic Acids stage 2	No	2023	36.83 (15-45)	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By product of drinking water chlorination
Barium	No	10/21/2021	0.083	mg/L	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
Turbidity (5)	No	2023	.27	NTU	N/A	TT=<1NTU	Soil Runoff
Nitrate	No	5/9/2023	<0.25	mg/L	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	12/16/14	74.5	mg/L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Nickel	No	10/21/2021	0.00081	mg/L	N/A	N/A	

Notes:

- 1-The level represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 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 .41mg/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- This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.
- 5- 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. Out of the 156 turbidity samples taken in the Town of Ulster in 2023, and the average was .27. State regulations require that 95% of turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU and that all turbidity results are <1 NTU.

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).

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of 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?

The Ulster Water District had a monitoring violation last year. In November of 2023 two of the six routine samples for Microbiological Contaminants were not submitted.

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Ulster Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Ulster Water Department (845) 382-2434. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Operations?

During 2023 our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating 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 Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

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. 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:

Made 5 Repairs to the Water main due to Water Breaks during the year 2023.

02/2023 - Removed Hylift motor and Pump#1 from the Ulster Treatment Plant.

5/22/23 Moved South Tower Scada RTU from outside to South Tower Pit.

06/2023- Installed new Hylift Pump #1 and Motor at the Ulster treatment Plant.

06/2023 - Removed Hylift motor and Pump#2 from the Ulster Treatment Plant.

06/2023 Installed new Hylift Pump #2 and Motor at the Ulster Treatment Plant.

07/2023 Replaced Flow Control Valve at Ulster Main Plant in Hylift Room

07/2023 Replaced Meter at Ulster Treatment Plant.

07/2023 Installed two soft starts for both Hylifts at Ulster Treatment Plant.

07/2023 Subsurface Technologies performed a well pump test for Well #2, Well #3 and Well #4.

08/29/23 Replaced Kasco Mixer in South Tower.

9/14/23 Installed new Kasco Mixer in the North Tower

12/2023 Demolition on the Small South Tower completed.

12/15/2023 – Replaced Kasco Mixer in North Tower.

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.