

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015

*The City of Ogdensburg  
330 Ford Street  
(Public Water Supply ID# NY 4404394)*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The City of Ogdensburg, 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. 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 George Kennedy, Chief Operator, (315) 393-0490 or The New York State Department of Health Canton District Office, (315)386-1040. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please call for information or to set up an appointment for a personal meeting. The meetings may be held at the Filtration Plant or in your home whichever is more convenient for you.

### *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 source is surface water drawn from the Saint Lawrence River. Our intake station is located on the Western side of the city. During 2015, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

The water is pumped to four slow sand filters and two Diatomaceous earth filters to remove organic and inorganic materials from the water. The finished water is then chlorinated to de-activate any bacteria that may be present. Fluoride treatment is maintained to promote good dental health, prior to distribution.

A copy of the "Source Water Assessment Program" (SWAP), may be obtained by contacting George Kennedy at the Ogdensburg Water Filtration Plant at (315)393-0490.

The SWAP contains information pertaining to the susceptibility of your water supply to contamination from various sources. These sources include but are not limited to: Agricultural runoff containing Pesticides/herbicides, and protozoa, Microbial contaminants, Shipping spills, storm generated turbidity, waste water, toxic sediments, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels – intake clogging and taste and odor problems).

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 11,128 people through 4,080 service connections. The total water produced in 2015 was 674 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped was 1.83 million gallons. Our highest single day for, 2015, was 2.6 million gallons on Feb. 18. The amount of water delivered to customers would be slightly less than the amounts treated due to hydrant flushing, leaks in the system, fire fighting etc. In 2015, water customers were charged \$3.92 per 1,000 gallons of water used for metered services, and \$318.00 for flat rate services. The 2015 operational budget for the water treatment facility and distribution system was \$2,023,116.00.

### *Are there contaminants in our drinking water?*

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include, but are not limited to: total coliform, turbidity, 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.

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 New York State Department of Health Canton District Office at (315) 386-1040.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (maximum) (range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	No	4/8/15	0.020 mg/l	mg/l	2 mg/l	MCL=2 mg/l	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	No	4/8/15	2.9ug/l	Ug/l	100ug/l	MCL=100ug/l	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2)	No	8/4/14-9/15/14	0.46 mg/l range = 0.038-0.60	mg/l	1.3 mg/l	AL=1.3mg/l	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (3)	No	8/4/14-9/15/14	<1.0 ug/l range = <1.0-1.2ug/l	ug/l	0 ug/l	AL=15 ug/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	Daily	Daily-0.7mg/l Range= 0.5-1.0	mg/l	N/A	MCL=2.2 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.
Nickel	No	4/8/15	0.0014 mg/l	mg/l	0.1mg/l	MCL=0,1mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits; Industrial processes; coal gasification; petroleum refining; hydrogenation of fat and oils
<b>Inorganics – Nitrate and Nitrite</b>							
Nitrate as N	No	4/8/15	0.48 mg/l	mg/l	10 mg/l	MCL=10 mg/l	Runoff fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Turbidity</b>							
Turbidity (5)	No	8/31/15	0.022 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (5)	No	All of 2015	100% below 1.0 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= 95% of samples<1.0 NTU	
<b>Radionuclides Due for testing again between 1/1/2018 and 12/31/2026</b>							
Gross Alpha Radiation	No	10/3/08	1.729 pCi/l	pCi/l	15	MCL=15 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined radium – 226 and 228	No	10/3/08	0.101 pCi/l	pCi/l	5		Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	quarterly	38ug/l (6) 32-56ug/l	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80 ug/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic acids	No	quarterly	20ug/l (6) 12-26ug/l	ug/l	N/A	MCL=60 ug/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

## Notes:

1 – N/A means not applicable.

2 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 30 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 30 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the thirty-seventh highest value 0.46 mg/l. The action level was not exceeded by any samples. There was no violation due to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile being below the AL.

3 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 30 samples collected this sample was the thirty-seventh highest value, <1.0ug/l. There was no violation due to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile being below the AL.

4 – 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.

5 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (0.022 NTU) for the year occurred on 8/31/15. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU. 100% of our recorded levels were below the New York State Standard of 0.5 NTU .

6 – This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

7 – The EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

## 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

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

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

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

**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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picograms per liter (pg/l):** Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr):** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

## **What does this information mean?**

As you can see by the table, We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, of these detected contaminants all were detected below the level allowed by the New York State Department of Health.

“Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).”

“Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.”

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

**During 2015, 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, Then check the meter after 15 minutes, If it moved, you have a leak.

**SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

**In 2015, The City Of Ogdensburg performed the following modifications to the distribution system:**

**The location and exercising of 130 water main valves, The repair of 19 water main breaks, Checked for frozen hydrants all winter, replaced 15 water services, replaced 3 Fire hydrants, Replaced 1 water main valves.**

**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. Please call our office if you have questions.**