

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***  
***Town of Owasco***  
***2 Bristol Avenue, Auburn, New York 13021***  
***Public Water Supply ID#0501721***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Owasco, 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 did not violate 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 John Carter, Water Supervisor at 315-253-3284. 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 on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the town hall on 2 Bristol Avenue.

## **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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is Owasco Lake and is located in Cayuga County. During 2023 our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water flows to the lower pump station from a line that is 450 feet out into the lake. The intake structure is located at a depth of 45 feet. The Town also protects its' raw water intake pipe from zebra mussels by adding potassium permanganate. From the lower pumping station the water is pumped from a 16 inch or 8 inch line to the filter plant where it is pre-chlorinated and polymer is added (ED461). It then goes to the Microfloc Trident System (TR-210 A), there it is post chlorinated prior to distribution. During the 2017 season, a Granular Activated Carbon filter system was built to help treat for microcystin, the toxin associated with Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB).

The NYS Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for the Town of Owasco, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. This 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 sub-surfaces to the lakes. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the water source. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become, contaminated.

(See the section of this document “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected in the drinking water.)

As mentioned before, our water is derived primarily from Owasco Lake. The source water assessment has rated this source as having an elevated susceptibility to protozoa and phosphorus due to the amount of agricultural land in the assessment area and the quantity of wastewater discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants to surface water. In addition, this source water assessment rated Owasco Lake as having an elevated susceptibility to pesticide contamination due to the amount of agricultural land.

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 complete assessment is available for review by calling the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves 3000 people in the Town of Owasco with 1614 service connections and our water serves the Town of Fleming. The total water produced in 2023 was 157,642,078 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 431,896 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 799,506 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 126,357,148 gallons and the metered filtered/flushed backwash totaled 9,291,942 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 21,992,988 gallons. This water was used to supply the splash pad (1,200,000 gallons), to flush mains, fight fires, the sewer jetter (estimated 5,000 gallons), water main breaks and lost through leakage, accounting for the remaining water produced (13 percent of the total amount produced). In 2023 water customers in the Town of Owasco were charged an average of \$4.50 per 1000 gallons of water and the annual average water charge was \$233.10.

## **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 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 Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

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TOWN OF OWASCO

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCL/G</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
BARIUM, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	0.023	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, Erosions of natural deposits
SULFATE (AS SO <sub>4</sub> )	No	4/5/23	11.2	mg/L	250	n/a	Naturally occurring
SODIUM	No	12/17/21	16.2	mg/L	No limit	N/A	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
TRIHALOMETHANES	No	2/13/23 5/16/23 8/15/23 11/13/23	Range 12-50 Highest Average 59 <sup>5</sup>	ug/l	80	N/A	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Haloacetic Acids	No	2/13/23 5/16/23 8/15/23 11/13/23	Range 7.8-36.6 Highest Average 29 <sup>5</sup>	ug/L	60	N/A	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Chemical</b>							
PH	No	Daily	7.09-8.41 SU				
<b>COPPER</b>	No	8/31/22	0.76 <sup>2</sup> 0.062-.93	mg/L	AL -1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>LEAD</b>	No	8/31/22	5 <sup>3</sup> <1-12	ug/L	AL -15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

NITRATE – (AS N)	No	4/5/23	0.97	mg/L	10	10	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA	No	1/15/23	0.175	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Physical	Owasco Lake						
<b>Turbidity (NTU)<sup>1</sup></b>	No	Daily	0.031-0.060 AVG-0.043	NTU	TT=95% of samples less than 0.3 ntu	N/A	Soil Runoff
<b>Turbidity (NTU)<sup>1</sup> (in distribution system)</b>	No	Daily	0.215-0.320 AVG. 0.2677	NTU	TT=<5 NTU	N/A	Soil Runoff
<b>Cyanotoxin</b>		/					
Microcystin Finished water	No	8/16/23-11/14/23	ND	ppb	N/A <sup>4</sup>	0	Naturally occurring due to algae blooms
Microcystin Raw Water	No	8/16/23-11/14/23	ND-1.31	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring due to algae blooms
<b>The Table below lists contaminants that were tested for but not detected</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCL/G</b>	<b>Sources in Drinking Water</b>
ANTIMONY – TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
ASBESTOS	No	11/17/20	<0.69	MFL			
BERYLLIUM, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
CADMIUM, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
CHROMIUM - TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.007	mg/L			
ARSENIC	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
CYANIDE , Hydrolyzable	No	10/6/21	<0.02	mg/L			
CYANIDE - TOTAL	No	04/05/23	<0.004	Mg/L			

DALAPON	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.001 <0.001 <0.001 <0.001	mg/L mg/L mg/L mg/L			
FLUORIDE	No	4/5/23	<0.10	mg/L			
MERCURY, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.0002	mg/L			
NICKEL	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
SELENIUM, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.002	mg/L			
RADIUM 226	No	0901/22	<1.0	pCi/L			
THALLIUM, TOTAL	No	4/5/23	<0.001	mg/L			
RADIUM 228	No	09/01/22	<1	pCi/L			
1,4-DIOXANE	No	2/14/23	<0.5	ug/L			
PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	No	11/10/21	<0.002	ug/L			
PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	No	11/10/21	<0.002	ug/L			
BENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
BROMOBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
BROMOCHLOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/L			
BROMOFORM	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/L			
BROMOMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
N-BUTYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
sec-BUTYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TERT-BUTYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CARBON TETRACHLORIDE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CHLOROFORM	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CHLOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
2-CHLOROTOLUENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			

4-CHLOROTOLUENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
ISOPROPYLBENZENE (Cumene)	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
4-ISOPROPYLTOLUENE (p-Cymene)	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CIS-1,3- DICHLOROPROPENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/L			
DIBROMOMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2 -DIBROMOETHANE (EDB)	No	12/8/16	<0.01	ug/l			
DIBROMO-3-CHLOROPROPANE	No	9/28/15	<0.01	ug/l			
1,2-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,3-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,4-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
DICHLORODIFLUOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
CIS-1,2-DICHLOROETHENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1-DICHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2-DICHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1-DICHLOROETHENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TRANS-1,2-DICHLOROETHENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,3-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
2,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1-DICHLOROPROPENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TRANS-1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
ETHYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
HEXACHLOROBUTADIENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
METHYLENE CHLORIDE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
Methyl-tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE)	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
NAPHTHALENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
N-PROPYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
STYRENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TOLUENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			

TRICHLOROETHENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TRICHLOROFLUOROMETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1,1,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1,2,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
TETRACHLOROETHENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2,3-TRICHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2,4-TRICHLOROBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1,2-TRICHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2,3-TRICHLOROPROPANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,2 Dibromo-3-chloropropane	No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/l			
1,2-Dibromoethane (EDB)	No	10/3/19	<0.00001	mg/l			
Trifluralin	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/L			
1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,3,5-TRIMETHYLBENZENE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
VINYL CHLORIDE	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
M+P XYLENES	No	4/5/23	<1.00	ug/l			
O-XYLENES	No	4/5/23	<0.50	ug/l			
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	No	10/3/19	<0.50	ug/l			
Aldicarb Sulfone	No	10/3/19	<0.80	ug/l			
Oxamyl	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l			
Methomyl	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l			
3 – Hydroxycarbofuran	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l			
Aldicarb (Temik)	No	10/3/19	<0.50	ug/l			
Propoxur	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/L			
Carbofuran	No	10/3/19	<0.90	ug/l			
Carbaryl (Sevin)	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l			
Methiocarb	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/L			
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (C-56)	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Propachlor	No	10/3/19	<0. 01	mg/l			
Trifluralin	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/L			
Hexachlorobenzene	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
HCH,Alpha	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			

Gamma-BHC (Lindane)	No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/l			
HCH,Beta	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
HCH,Delta	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Heptachlor	No	10/3/19	<0.00004	mg/l			
Aldrin	No	10/3/19	<0.001	mg/l			
Heptachlor Epoxide	No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/l			
Endosulfan I	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
4,4' – DDE	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Dieldrin	No	10/3/19	<0.001	mg/l			
Endrin	No	10/3/19	<0.00001*	mg/l			
4,4'-DDD	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Endosulfan II	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
4,4' – DDT	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Endrin Aldehyde	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Endosulfan Sulfate	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Methoxychlor	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Toxaphene	No	10/3/19	<0.001	mg/l			
Chlordane, Total	No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/l			
Mirex	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l			
Aroclor 1016	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1221	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1232	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1242	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1248	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1254	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Aroclor 1260	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Dicamba	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.01 <0.01 <0.01 <0.01	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			
2,4-D	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20	<0.0001 <0.0001 <0.0001 <0.0001	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			



		11/12/20					
Pentachlorophenol	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.00004 <0.00004 <0.00004 <0.00004	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			
Silvex (2,4,5-TP)	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.0002 <0.0002 <0.0002 <0.0002	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			
2,4,5-T	No	9/28/15	<0.1	ug/l			
Dinoseb	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.0002 <0.0002 <0.0002 <0.0002	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			
2,4-DB (Butoxone)	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/l			
Picloram (Tordon)	No	2/13/20 5/14/20 8/13/20 11/12/20	<0.0001 <0.0001 <0.0001 <0.0001	mg/l mg/l mg/l mg/l			
Acifluorfen	No	9/28/15	<0.2	ug/l			
Acetone	No	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/l			
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	No	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/l			
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	No	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/l			
<b>PESTICIDES</b>							
EPTC (Eptam)	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			
BUTYLATE (Sutan)	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			
DEET	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			

ATRAZINE	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
DISULFOTON (Di-Syston)	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			
DIAZINON (Spectracide)	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			
ALACHLOR (Lasso)	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
METHYL PARATHION	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l			
METOLACHLOR	No	10/3/19	<0.01	mg/l			
BUTACHLOR	No	10/3/19	<0.01	mg/l			
bis(2-Ethylhexyl)adipate	No	10/3/19	<0.0006	mg/l			
Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate	No	10/3/19	<0.0006	mg/l			
METRIBUZIN	No	10/3/19	<0.01	mg/l			
SIMAZINE	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l			
Benzo(a)pyrene	No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/l			
Free Chlorine	No	9/19/22	<0.5	Mg/L			
<b>Physical</b>							
Color	No	Daily	<5	Units			
Odor	No	Daily	No Odor Present				

As per NELAC regulation, disclosure of the following condition is required: \* The result of the laboratory control sample was less than the established limit.

1 – 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 (0.084 NTU) for the year occurred on August 6. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value, 0.64 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

4 – The United States Environmental Protective Agency's 10 day health advisory level for microcystin is 0.3 ppb for children less than or equal to 5 years of age and vulnerable populations and 1.6 ppb for all other people.

5- This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

## **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.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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, 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.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. 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. The Town of Owasco is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or 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 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 firefighting 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. 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 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**

The Town of Owasco continues to maintain and improve our water system.

## **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.