Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025

Town of Richland public water system
PO Box 29, Pulaski, NY 13142
System ID # 37-30165

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Richland will be issuing an annual 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 Town Supervisor, Robert North, at 315-298-5174. We want you to be informed about your drinking water, and we will be available to discuss any drinking water issues in person.

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. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, New York State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves over 4,000 people through 1,216 service connections. The Town's water source consists of five drilled wells located at the Richland well field and two drilled wells located at the Fernwood well field. Water from the wells is pumped into one 150,000-gallon elevated water storage tank located at the Fernwood site, one 150,000-gallon elevated water storage tank located on County Route 5, and into an additional 314,000-gallon storage tank located at the Richland well field site. The Town has an average daily production of 392,505 gallons per day. Additional production is also provided to seasonal customers between the months of May and September. The water is disinfected with liquid sodium hypochlorite (Chlorine) using an injection pump at the Fernwood well field site and is disinfected with chlorine generated on-site at the Richland well field site. We also provide drinking water to the towns of Sandy Creek and Orwell.

SOURCEWATER ASSESSMENT

A source water assessment has not been completed by the NYSDOH for our system. We will provide this information to our customers as soon as it becomes available.

County and state health departments will use this risk assessment information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, wellhead protection, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

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 (TTHMs), halo acetic acids (HAAs), radiological contaminants 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 Oswego County Health Department at (315) 349-3557.

Table Of Detected Compounds

Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Detected (Avg/Max Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper **	No	6/1/2024	196 ug/L (18 - 276)	ug/L	n/a	AL = 1,300 ug/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead **	No	6/1/2024	1.7 ug/L (ND - 4.8)	ug/L	0 ug/L	AL = 15 ug/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (As Nitrogen) Fernwood Wells	No	8/19/2025	1.4 mg/L	mg/L	10 mg/l	10,000 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (As Nitrogen) Schoeller Wells	No	8/19/2025	0.34 mg/L	mg/L	10 mg/L	10,000 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium*	No	3/6/2023 - 10/2/2023	8.52 ug/L (7.4 - 9.6)	ug/L	2000 ug/L	2000 ug/L	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride*	No	3/6/2023	7.79 mg/L (7.75 - 7.84)	mg/L	N/A	250mg/L	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt.
Sodium***	No	3/6/2023	4.95 mg/L (4.64 - 5.26)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring, road salt, water softener treatment, animal waste.
Sulfate*	No	3/6/2023	6.75 mg/L (3.18 - 8.30)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.

Table Of Detected Compounds (Cont.)

Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/ Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts							
Trihalomethanes TTHM*	No	8/19/2025	5.3 ug/L	ug/L	N/A	80 ug/L	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	No	8/19/2025	2.3 ug/L	ug/L	N/A	60ug/L	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 226 & 228 Schoeller	No	8/15/2022	0.715	pCi/L	0pCi/L	5pCi/L^3	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 Fernwood	No	8/15/2022	0.76	pCi/L	0pCi/L	5pCi/L^3	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Fernwood	No	8/15/2022	-0.598	pCi/L	0pCi/L	15pCi/L	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Gross Alpha Schoeller	No	8/15/2022	0.17	pCi/L	0pCi/L	15pCi/L	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions

Notes:

* Laboratory results from Town of Richland raw water samples collected from Fernwood and Schoeller well fields.

** The levels presented for copper and lead represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of the distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile value is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected in your water system. In this case 10 samples were collected and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for lead and for copper was not exceeded any of the sites tested.

*** No State standards exist for levels of sodium in public drinking water. However, the State recommends that water containing more than 20,000 ppb of sodium is not used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 250,000 ppb of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

DEFINITIONS:

Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Non-Detects (ND or <number value) – Laboratory analysis indicates that the tested compound is not present in the sample.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm). Or one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb). Or one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – A measure of radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2025. We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. The Town of Richland 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 formulas, 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 Town Supervisor, Robert North, at 315-298-5174. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at ***https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead***.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. During 2025 our system met all monitoring or reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) require every federally defined community and non-transient, non-community water system to develop a service line inventory (also called a lead service line inventory (LSLI)). 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 non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory. The results of our survey found that our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines.

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 people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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). Please note that testing of the water in this system has shown that this water is suitable for drinking water purposes and contains very low amounts of contaminants and should not pose any health risks.

INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Spanish: Este informe contien información may importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entinda bien.

French: Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez le ou prlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

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 several reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs are associated with both 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 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with quality drinking water this year. To maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary to address improvements. We ask all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.

Oswego County Health Department
Annual Water Quality Report Certification Form

Community Water System Name: _____
Community Water System Address: _____
PWS ID #: _____

The community water system named above hereby confirms that its Annual Water Quality Report has been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the health department.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Bill-paying customers - indicate how your report was distributed below:

___ Annual Water Quality Report was distributed to bill-paying customers by mail.
___ Annual Water Quality Report was distributed to bill-paying customers by direct delivery
(please specify the direct delivery method used).
____Hand delivered.
____Published in local paper (i.e., Penny Saver) that was directly delivered or mailed to all billpaying customers.
____Published in local municipal newsletter that was directly delivered or mailed.
____Mailed a notification that AWQR is available on a public website via a direct URL
____Emailed with a message containing a direct URL link to the AWQR.
____Emailed with AWQR sent as an attachment to the email.
____Emailed with AWQR sent as an embedded image in the email.
____Additional electronic delivery that meets "otherwise directly deliver" requirement.
____Other (please specify) _____ .

For systems serving at least 100,000 persons, in addition to distributing your report using the methods described above, your Annual Water Quality Report must also be posted on the Internet.

Annual Water Quality Report is posted on the Internet at www._____.

Non-bill-paying customers – fill out the section below:

Please indicate what "Good Faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods as recommended by the New York State Department of Health.

___ Posting the Annual Water Quality Report on the Internet at www._____.
___ Mailing the Annual Water Quality Report to postal patrons within the service area.
___ Advertising the availability of the Annual Water Quality Report in the news media.
___ Publication of the Annual Water Quality Report in a local newspaper.
___ Posting the Annual Water Quality Report in public places (attach a list of locations).
___ Delivery of multiple copies to single-bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large private employers.
___ Delivery to community organizations.