

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*

*Colden Water District #1*

*8812 State Rd*

*Colden, NY 14033*

*(Public Water Supply ID#1450020)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Colden Water District #1, 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 Water Clerk Ronald Smith at 716-941-5012 or Councilman Gerald Pietraszek at 716-941-5012. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings on the second Thursday of each month, at 7PM at the Town Hall on Rte. 240. If you have any questions regarding water services and or billing please visit the Colden Water District office located in the town hall, on Wednesdays from 10:30AM to 2:00 PM. Phone 716-941-5012 for appointments on days other than Wednesdays. We have two part time workers servicing the District. They are Ron Smith, Water Clerk and Greg Adams, Class D Operator who deals with all physical aspects of the Water District.

## **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.

The Colden Water District serves about 218 home / building connections and one (1) bulk water connection located at Town Highway Garage. Our water source is the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) water tower on Wohlhueter Rd, in the town of Boston. The Town of Colden purchases water at this point from the Water Authority, through a bulk purchase agreement. Water is then brought into town through a water line along Lower East Hill Road and finally distributed to our District customers.

The Erie County Water Authority obtains its water from two sources. The Authority's Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant, in the Town of Evans, draws water from Lake Erie to supply southern Erie County and communities in Cattaraugus County. The Van De Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants deliver an average of 65 million gallons a day to more than one half million people in Western New York. In each plant, the water is rigorously treated, then sent through the Authority's extensive distribution system where it eventually enters the Water Tower on Wohlhueter Road in the Town of Boston. Finally, the water is tested again by the Town of Colden on a regular schedule for chlorine residuals and for bacteria.

The Erie County Water Authority does issue an Annual Water Quality Report each year. Their 2023 AWQR will be available for review and is available in electronic form at [www.ecwa.org](http://www.ecwa.org) . If you have any questions regarding this report, please submit your requests to [questionscomments@ecwa.org](mailto:questionscomments@ecwa.org) .

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: microbiological compounds such as total coliform and E.coli bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds such as nitrate, copper, and lead, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and radiological compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows testing for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the 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 Erie County Health Department at 716-961-6800.

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. Colden Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and uses no lead pipes or lead connections, 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 Colden Water District @ 716-941-5012. 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>.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</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>MCLG</b>	<b>Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Copper	No	8/19/2021	118.5 <sup>1</sup> ND – 165	ug/l	1300	AL = 1300	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	8/19/2021	2.4 <sup>1</sup> ND – 3.2	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organics</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	02/12/23 05/12/23 08/09/23	61.6 40.0 – 85.1	ug/l	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids <sup>3</sup>	No	02/12/23 05/12/23 08/09/23	48 43.2 – 53.4	ug/l	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	Every day	1.16 <sup>2</sup> 0.92 – 1.58	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

## NOTES:

1 - During 2021 we collected water samples for copper and lead. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested prior. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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 and lead values detected in your water system.

2 - The value noted is the average for the entire year of sampling. The range varies depending on the amount of chlorine originally injected by the Erie County Water Authority.

3 - Total trihalomethanes were high in August 2023, exceeding the regulatory limit. The fourth quarter sampling was not done, resulting in a Tier III violation.

## 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.

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

**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 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.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. Total trihalomethanes were high in August 2023. Also, the fourth quarter 2023 test was not done resulting in a Tier 111 violation. So we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at this time. The potential adverse health effects are that some 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. We have corrected this issue by flushing the waterlines.

## 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 or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2023, we did not monitor or test for disinfection byproducts in the fourth quarter and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

Additionally, the Colden Water District was issued a waiver regarding the sampling for asbestos in our system because our system was constructed without the use of asbestos containing materials. This waiver expires on December 31, 2032.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the Erie County Water Authority before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the Erie County Water Authority monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2023 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 99% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **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. 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at 716-941-5012 if you have questions.