

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***

Village of Altamont

115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009

Public Water Supply Identification Number NY0100190

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Altamont 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. 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 concerning this report or concerning your drinking water please contact: *Mr. Larry Adams, Water Treatment Plant Operator, Village of Altamont, PO Box 643, 115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009; Telephone (518) 861-6913.* We want our valued customers to be informed about their water service. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. They are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Village Offices, 115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009; *Telephone (518) 861-8554.* If you want to learn more, please call us.

### **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The Village of Altamont draws its water from ground water sources. The ground water supply located at Gun Club Road consists of one drilled well with a yield of 220 gallons per minute. Also, there are two wells at our Brandle Road Pump house. The Brandle Road Wells have been offline since November 2022. Groundwater or well water is stored below the surface of the earth in deep, porous soil called "aquifers." Groundwater is purified naturally as it filters through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. This process, known as "percolation" takes years to complete. As a result, groundwater requires less treatment than surface water. This water is also chlorinated to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria or other organisms. We also add an ortho-phosphate corrosion inhibitor to minimize lead and copper concentrations in the water supply. The water is then pumped into several storage tanks with a total capacity of 1,040,000 gallons. The storage tanks are necessary to meet consumer demand and provide adequate fire protection.

The source water assessment performed by the New York State Health Department has rated our Gun Club Road groundwater source as having an elevated susceptibility to bacteria, viruses and protozoa from septic systems. The SWAP summary for our water supply is attached to this report. It should be noted that the SWAP looks at the untreated water only. Our water is treated to minimize the potential sources of contamination.

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 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.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The Village provides water through 835 service connections to a population of approximately 2,000 people. Our average daily demand is 188,000 gallons. Our single highest day was 430,000 gallons. The total water produced in 2023 was 77,738,765 gallons.

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with State regulations, the Village of Altamont routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for inorganic contaminants, radiological contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, and synthetic organic contaminants. In addition, we test 2 samples for coliform bacteria each month. The table presented below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old and is noted.

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 pose 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 Albany County Health Department at (518) 447-4620.

**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.

The Village of Altamont feeds an ortho-phosphate corrosion inhibitor to minimize lead and copper concentrations in the water supply. The corrosion inhibitor has been effective in reducing the lead and copper levels. The orthophosphate also has a tendency to soften the minerals that have built up on the inside of our water mains over decades of operation. Sometimes the softened minerals can break away from the pipe wall causing localized discoloration of the water. While this is not a health concern, it can be aesthetically undesirable. Over time, occurrences of discoloration will lessen.

New York State has adopted the first in the nation drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane along with one of the lowest maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS. Public Water Supplies in NYS are required to test for PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane. PFOA and PFOS have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) of 10 parts per trillion each while 1,4-Dioxane has an MCL of 1.0 parts per billion. The Village of Altamont Water Department has completed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter monitoring on 9/27/23 with no detects for PFOA, PFOS & 1,4-Dioxane.

**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 microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**INFORMATION ON LEAD**

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. 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 Village of Altamont Water Department 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 Larry Adams at the Village of Altamont. 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>.

**WATER SOURCE RESTRICTIONS**

We have removed the Brandle Road Wells from service because of the elevated levels we had for the manganese concentration. We will be working with our engineers to explore the best treatment method to reduce manganese levels in the water produced at Brandle Road. We continue to use Gun Club Road Wells for our water supply.

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

The Village of Altamont encourages water conservation. There are a lot of things you can do to conserve water in your own home. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when there is a full load.
- ◆ Use water saving showerheads.
- ◆ Install faucet aerators in the kitchen and the bathroom to reduce the flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ◆ Water gardens and lawns according to local regulations.
- ◆ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair all leaks promptly.
- ◆ Take shorter showers.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

- ♦ During 2023, no significant changes were made to the water system.

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

#### **Village of Altamont NY0100190 Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a Source Water Assessment for the Village of Altamont's well. Possible and actual contaminant threats to your well were evaluated. The 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 well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination. It does not mean that the water delivered to your home is or will become unsafe to drink. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" of this report, for information concerning low levels of contaminants in your water.

The sensitivity of an aquifer is based on geology, which influences how rapidly groundwater moves and how likely a contaminant could reach a well. The aquifer that Altamont draws its water from is considered a high yield aquifer. Contaminants, if present, can move relatively quickly in high yield aquifers. Therefore, this well has been assigned a high sensitivity rating. The potential impact of a chemical or microbes on a well (Susceptibility) is based on aquifer sensitivity, proximity of potential contaminant sources and chemical or biological characteristics of the contaminant.

The assessment has determined that the Village's well is susceptible to bacteria, viruses and protozoa from septic systems. The assessment treated Altamont's waste water treatment plant, near the well, as a septic system. The Village's plant discharges into the Bozen Kill, which flows away from the well. Additionally, the plant's effluent is disinfected. It is unlikely that the plant will cause microbial contamination. If microbes did reach the well, the disinfection of the well water would eliminate them.

The assessment has also determined that the well is susceptible to various chemicals, including petroleum products. Gasoline and other fuels can originate from leaking storage tanks. Underground tanks are of particular concern. The other chemicals could come from accidental spills at one of the small commercial facilities in the Village. These chemicals could also originate from an overturned truck or train derailment. These events are unlikely.



#### FOOTNOTES-

1. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 test sites. 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, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the sample with the second highest value (level detected 0.420 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
2. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 test sites. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
3. The sample from Brande Wells exceeded the MCL for manganese 300 µg/l.
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. The MCL of 10 ng/l is for PFOA and PFOS individually.

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

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - 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 (µg/l)* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) (ng/l) corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid.*

*90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*-The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system.

*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.

*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.

*N/A*-not applicable