

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025
Whitesville Water System
Town of Independence
887 Marietta Ave. – Town Hall
(Public Water Supply ID# NY0200328)

INTRODUCTION:

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Independence, 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 Josh Mullen, Water Superintendent, 607-356-3608, the Town Clerk, or any Town of Independence Board Member. 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. They are held at 6:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Town Hall at 887 Marietta Avenue, Whitesville, New York.

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 main water source is ground water drawn from an eighty-eight (88) foot deep well. The water is pumped to a 300,000-gallon holding tank, which acts as a reservoir and contact tank for chlorination purposes. We have 200 metered services and our water system serves approximately 500 people.

In accordance with state mandates, the Town of Independence provides treatment for disinfection and as of September 2002 the addition of soda ash (sodium hydroxide) to help with corrosion control.

IMPROVEMENTS:

We have continued the process of searching for and fixing leaks and also updating many of the resident's water meters. Our plans are to purchase and install some new meters; and to continue to work on the lines and improve the system throughout the 2026 calendar year.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:

This assessment evaluates the potential for contaminations to enter the ground water pumped at Well 1 and 2. According to Allegany County's newest report from 2003, Well 1 presented the most risks from Halogenated Solvents, Petroleum Products, and Enteria Viruses. You may obtain a copy of the Source Water Assessment Report at any time from Mary G. Bissett, Town Clerk.

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, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. 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 Allegany County Department of Health at 585-268-9250.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	3/18/2025	0.104	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosions of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/16/23	0.83	ug/L	n/a	80	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Nitrates	No	10/14/25	1.37	mg/L	.05	.002 (MRL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Haloactic Acid	No	8/16/23	1.3	ug/L	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Copper*	No	10/14/25	*0.51 (90 th %) (Range: 0.139 - 0.541)	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead*	No	10/14/25	*0.002 (90 th %) (Range: 0 - 0.0037)	ug/L	0	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Gross Beta	No	4/30/25	0.98	pCi/l	n/a	n/a	Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions.
Radium (Combined 226 + 228)	No	4/30/25	0.8711	pCi/l	n/a	n/a	Erosion from natural deposits.

* – The level presented is the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested in 2023. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent measurements that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected in your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile was between the two highest values, detected at 0.0037 mg/L (lead) and 0.541 mg/L (copper). The action level for lead and copper was NOT exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Other tests were performed for water quality in 2025. These included monthly testing for coliform and e.coli bacteria. These bacterial tests were within the parameters for potable drinking water, as all the test results were negative.

The Water District applied for and was granted a waiver from the County for pesticides/SOC monitoring.

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).

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

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.

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. [Water Supply Name] 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 formula, 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 [Water Supply Name and Contact Information]. 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 or not your drinking water meets health standards.

During 2025, our water department failed to submit monthly operations reports to the health department for the months of January through September of 2025; and completed testing for lead and copper late, as well as failed to collect and submit a microbiological sample due for the month of September 2025, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. The Water District was fined by the County for these violations and we are in compliance for the failure to submit such reports.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY:

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 and have made it publicly accessible by requesting a copy from the Town Hall at 887 Marietta Ave., Whitesville, NY 14897.

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).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

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:

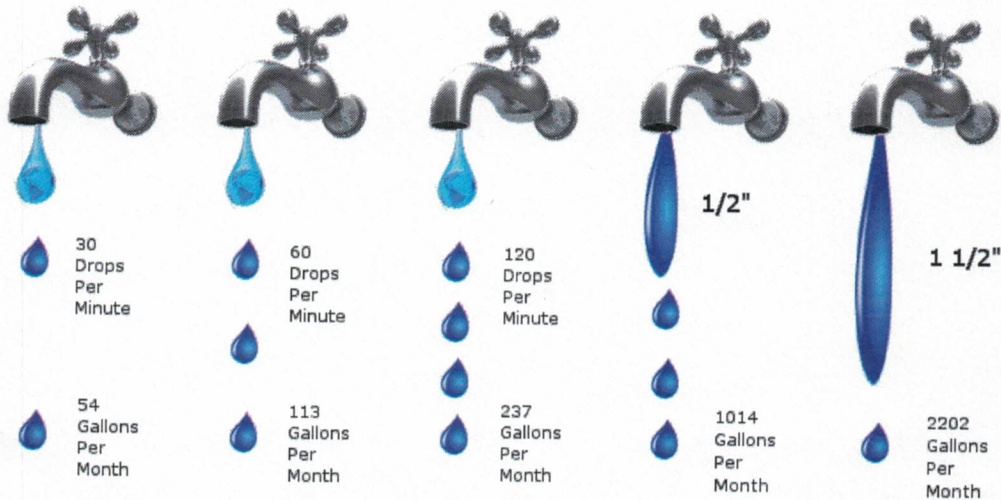
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. 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.
- ◆ Check your outdoor hose connections frequently.

- ◆ Set up a rain barrel at the end of a downspout for watering lawns/gardens. One good rainfall and you could save 40-gallons of water. Be sure it has a locking protective lid for child safety.

LEAK IMPACT CHART

Are water leaks costing you money?

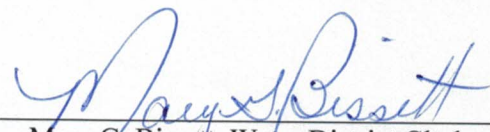
The following chart shows the amount of water that can be lost (and billed to your account) for various size leaks.



In closing, we wish to thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water.

Town boards meetings are held the second Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall. The water advisory board meetings are more randomly scheduled in order to accommodate members. You may contact the Town Hall at any time to inquire if a meeting date has been set.

Whitesville Water District
887 Marietta Avenue
Post Office Box 38
Whitesville, NY 14897
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Mary G. Bissett, Water District Clerk