

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020***  
***Village of Sherman***  
***P.O. Box 629***  
***Sherman, NY 14781***  
***Public Water Supply ID# NY0600373***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Village of Sherman, annually issues 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, our tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level, other than the bacteria sample. However, we did not meet all monitoring and reporting requirements. More information on this can be found in the section "Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules That Govern Operations."

This report provides an overview of all 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 James Irwin, Water Operator, 716-581-3397 or the Village of Sherman at 716-761-6781. 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. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM in the Village Office.

**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 water system serves approximately 917 people, several small businesses and Sherman Central School, through 365 service connections. The source of our drinking water is from two groundwater wells. These wells tap a sand and gravel aquifer formed by glaciers. The water is treated with chlorine and pumped directly into the distribution system.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state 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 subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. While nitrates and other inorganic contaminants were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The organics that were detected are byproducts of the disinfection process; they are not the result of contamination of our wells. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 2 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted wastewater treatment facilities to the wells. In addition, one well draws from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. And the other well draws from a confined aquifer (an aquifer bounded above and below by geology that restricts the passage of

groundwater), the aquifer recharge area (the section of land that receives precipitation and allows it to infiltrate into the aquifer) is considered vulnerable to potential sources of contamination.

While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

**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, 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 Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4481.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL/ AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>INORGANICS CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Lead(1)	No	9/26/19	2.8 Range= ND-4.0	ug/l	15 (AL)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper(2)	No	9/26/19	0.166 Range= 0.024-0.367	mg/l	1.3 (AL)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium	No	3/26/18	0.085	mg/l	2 (MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (Well 1)	No	11/4/20	1.1	mg/l	10(MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (Well 2)	No	11/4/20	1.8	mg/l	10(MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Gross Beta	No	8/9/16	2.10	Pci/l	50 (MCL)	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
<b>STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (173 West Main)</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/31/17	18.3	ug/l	80 (MCL)	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.
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/31/17	5.25	ug/l	60 (MCL)	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (118 Kendrick)</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/31/17	33.9	ug/l	80 (MCL)	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.

Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/31/17	7.61	ug/l	60 (MCL)	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>DISINFECTION</b>							
Chlorine residual	No	Daily (2020)	Avg.= 0.404 Range= 0.18-0.90	mg/l	4 (MCL)	N/A	Water additive used to control microbes

**Notes:**

1- 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 Lead values detected at your water system. In this case 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was calculated to be the second highest value at 2.8 ug/l. The action level for Lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. 10 copper samples were collected at your water system and once again the 90th percentile was calculated to be the third highest value at 0.166 mg/l. The action level for Copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

**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.

**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).

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 routine monitoring for Semi-volatile Organic Contaminants was performed. Due to laboratory error, we did not receive results for Benzo[a]pyrene, Bis(2-ethylhexyl) adipate, and Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and no resamples were collected in 2019. We were scheduled to resample for these contaminants in 2020 but failed to do so. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water for these contaminants in 2020. However, we collected samples in February of 2021 and there were no detections. 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 and copper were detected within the system but of 20 samples collected none were found exceeding the action levels. We are however 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 Village of Sherman 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>.

The NYSDOH has a free lead testing program – for more information go to:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/free\\_lead\\_testing\\_pilot\\_program](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/free_lead_testing_pilot_program)

## **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 2020, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating requirements, but not reporting and monitoring requirements. As mentioned above, we did not collect resamples for Benzo[a]pyrene, Bis(2-ethylhexyl) adipate, and Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. These contaminants were tested for in 2021. We also failed to collect disinfection byproduct samples for the year 2020 and a bacteria sample for the month of July. Therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water for these contaminants during these specific monitoring periods. We have been issued monitoring violations for these and will begin yearly sampling for disinfection byproducts in the year 2021. We were also issued two reporting violations for not submitting monthly chlorine monitoring reports for the months of February and July to the Health Department on time.

## **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 FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS**

### **Spanish**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **French**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisezle ou parlez 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 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 if you have questions.