

**Village of Camden**  
**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023**  
**57 Main Street - Camden, NY 13316**  
**(Public Water Supply ID#NY3202385)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Village of Camden will be annually issuing this 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. 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 Ken Scherrieble, Camden Group at 315-245- 4444. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Water and Sewer Board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6:00PM, in the Village Hall Meeting Room – 57 Main Street.

## **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 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 Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water sources are drawn from three spring systems and if needed, an open reservoir (surface water) located in the hills northeast of the Village. Each spring system has two to four well basins and a collector junction box. We are fortunate, in that our water comes from the Tug Hill Aquifer, a 47-mile long crescent shaped deposit of sand and gravel that flanks the western and southwestern Tug Hill Plateau. The water is piped to the water treatment plant where it is filtered and disinfected with chlorine. If demand exceeds the capacity of our springs, we are able to add reservoir water after it has been filtered and disinfected.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves a population of 2,800 through 975 metered connections. The total water produced in 2023 was 126,733,000 gallons. The average amount of water pumped daily was 347,214 gallons with a high flow of 605,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 63,309,000. This leaves an unaccounted for total of around 63,424,000 gallons. This water (approximately 50% of the total amount produced) was used to flush mains, fight fires, street cleaning, and leakage. Water customers were billed at the following rates. The rate schedule for Village residents is as follows: the first 15,000 gallons \$42.70; the next 50,000 gallons (15,001-65000 gallons) \$2.56 per thousand; the next 50,000 gallons (65,001 – 115,000 gallons) 2.68 per thousand, and then 115001 or more is \$2.81 per thousand. For outside users the rate schedule is as follows: first 15,000 gallons \$64.05; the next 50,000 gallons \$3.84 per; the next 50,000 gallons \$4.03 gallons per 1000; 115,001 gallons and over is \$3.51 per thousand.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for the CAMDEN VILLAGE Water System. Possible and actual threats to drinking water source(s) 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 source(s). 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. The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is designed to compile, organize and evaluate information to make better decisions regarding protecting sources of public drinking water. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above. The land uses around the CAMDEN VILLAGE Water System sources were rated for their potential to cause contamination to the sources. All Camden sources were considered at a low risk for all contaminants related to land use. When combined with a low risk of contamination from discrete sources and a high natural sensitivity based on soils, contaminant history, surficial geology, aquifer information and bedrock geology, this created a medium high susceptibility for the source to contamination. When used, the Emmons Brook has a medium-high susceptibility rating for protozoa and enteric bacteria and viruses as it is a surface water source. This source is used on an emergency basis only. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future. Based upon the SWAP Report determinations, good judgment should be used, and caution should be exercised when determining placement of certain materials, actions and facilities, including septic systems, high-risk businesses or chemical storage near the source(s). We work hard to ensure that the source of water for our system is protected from contamination.

## Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Is System in Violation?	Date of Sample	Level Detected Average or Maximum (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG / MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Physical Parameters</b>							
Turbidity (EP) (1)	No	8/19/23	0.06 (highest single measurement)	NTU	N/A	TT = <1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (EP) (1)		All months	100% ≤ 1.0 (lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting specified limits)			TT = 95% of samples <1.0 NTU	
Turbidity (Distribution) (1)	No	Daily	0.357 (2) (range = 0.001-0.088)	NTU	N/A	TT = <5 NTU	Soil Runoff.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper	No	8/21	0.15 (3) (range = 0.044 – 0.17)	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	8/21	1.1 (4) (range = ND – 1.5)	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	5/23	0.79	mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	Daily / Monthly	1.65(5) (range = 1.4-1.9)	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4 (6)	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Haloacetic Acids	No	8/23	1.6(7)	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/23	6.6(7)	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha Activity	No	5//17	0.538	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226	No	5/17	0.069	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 228	No	5/17	0.621	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Notes:**

- 1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity is measured on a regular basis in the distribution system. All levels recorded during 2023 were within the acceptable range allowed.
- 2 - This level represents the average and range of results of monthly sampling.
- 3 - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the ten (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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten (10) samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 4 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten (10) sites tested. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 5 - The values presented represent the average and range of the levels reported on the monthly microbiological sampling reports.
- 6 - Value presented represents the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) which is a level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects. MRDLs are currently not regulated but in the future they will be enforceable in the same manner as MCLs.
- 7 - This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from data collected

**Definitions:**

<b>ACTION LEVEL</b>	<b>AL</b>	The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
<b>MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL</b>	<b>MCL</b>	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.
<b>MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	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.
<b>MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL</b>	<b>MRDL</b>	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.
<b>MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL</b>	<b>MRDLG</b>	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.
<b>MILLIGRAMS PER LITER</b>	<b>mg/l</b>	Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
<b>MICROGRAMS PER LITER</b>	<b>ug/l</b>	Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).
<b>NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT</b>	<b>NTU</b>	A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
<b>PICOCURIES PER LITER</b>	<b>pCi/L</b>	A measure of radioactivity in water.
<b>NON-DETECTED</b>	<b>ND</b>	Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
<b>TREATMENT TECHNIQUE</b>	<b>TT</b>	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, all of these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

Last year, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

**WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS**

The Village of Camden continually works to maintain and upgrade water system components and equipment to ensure continued service of high quality water to our customers. We conduct an annual leak detection program to locate and isolate leaks in the water system. We have found and repaired some significant leaks in our system using this program. We are regularly replacing outdated water meters with newer versions. The Water Board continues to act proactively to protect our watershed.

**LEAD INFORMATION**

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 Camden 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>.

**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?**

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 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 for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check 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 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.