

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER DIVISION



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021
The Farms Water District
425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills NY 10507
Public Water Supply ID# 5903418

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Farms Water District, 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. 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. Last year, our system exceeded the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for the chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). We have taken immediate action and are taking long term action to correct this problem. The system has two wells. The levels in Well 1 have been below the MCLs. Well 2 is our backup well, and system demand can be met using only Well 1. Well 2 was utilized for only 4 days in 2021 in order to perform mandatory sampling. The District will only utilize Well 2 when required for regulatory sampling or if Well 1 is out of service due to equipment issues, which is quite infrequent. We are working to fund, obtain property rights for, design, obtain regulatory approval for, and install new wells in an uncontaminated aquifer to replace the existing source of supply. In March we obtained approval from the property owner for an easement to install new wells. We have submitted to the County Health Department for a permit to proceed with the wells and will continue to move this project forward. The Town applied for and will receive an \$841,000 grant from New York State to help resolve this water quality issue. This will pay for 60% of the estimated project, and we are very grateful to NYS for the assistance.

We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the Bedford DPW Water Division at 666-7855 or water@bedfordny.gov. You can also attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings, which are normally scheduled on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The meeting schedule can be found at <https://bedfordny.gov/meetings-agendas/>.

COUNT ON US

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed

water professionals have an understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

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 Bedford Farms Water District has ground water sources (wells) that supply drinking water to the district. They consist of one gravel-packed well and one rock well. These water supplies are disinfected with sodium hypochlorite. An air stripper treats the water prior to disinfection to remove organic compounds. After disinfection, the water is pumped to distribution. The Old Post Road Water District is considered a consecutive water system and obtains treated water from the Farms Water District.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has completed a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for our systems based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants may be introduced into the water sources. Copies of the assessment can be obtained from the NYSDOH. 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. See the section of this report entitled Sampling Results for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information to protect source waters into the future. The Source Water Assessment has rated these wells as having a very high susceptibility to microbials and a high susceptibility to nitrates and industrial solvents. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial and commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state or federal government); the fact that a large portion of the assessment area is categorized as an unsewered residential area; and low-intensity residential activities in the assessment area, such as fertilizing

lawns. The high industrial solvent rating is due to hazardous waste sites located in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of high hydraulic conductivity. 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.

FACTS AND FIGURES

This water system serves approximately 300 people through 85 service connections. The total amount of water produced in 2021 was 8.0 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 21,918 gallons per day. Approximately 90 percent of the total was billed directly to the consumers. The balance of 810,000 gallons of unaccounted-for water was used for firefighting, hydrant use for street sweeping, distribution system leaks, and unauthorized use. In 2020, water customers were charged a combined total of \$26,227. The annual water charge per user is based on a sliding scale of water rates. Based on average household metered consumption, the charge for the first 10,000 gallons used in a household is \$30.82. The rates increase as water use increases. The average quarterly bill in 2021 was \$77.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological 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 local Health Department at (914) 864-7332.

Sampling Results

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	4/28/21	0.228	NA	mg/l	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta Particle/Photon Activity	No	4/17/18	4.39	NA	pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural deposits
Chloride	No	2021	242	215-265	mg/l	NA	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Chlorine residual	No	2021	0.61	0.42-1.00	mg/l	NA	4	Water treatment chemical added for disinfection
Flouride	No	4/28/21	0.24	NA	mg/l	NA	4	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese	No	4/28/21	2	NA	ug/l	NA	300	Naturally occurring
Nickel	No	4/28/21	3	NA	ug/l	NA	NA	Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	2/4/21	2.67	NA	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	4/28/21	113	NA	mg/l	NA	see footnote (1)	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Sulfate	No	4/28/21	30.8	NA	mg/l	NA	250	Naturally occurring

Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (2)	No	3/2021	1.9	ND-1.9	ug/l	NA	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners; Waste sites; Spills
Uranium	No	4/17/18	2.4	NA	ug/l	NA	30	Decay of natural deposits
Zinc	No	4/28/21	0.019	NA	mg/l	NA	5	Naturally occurring

(1) Water containing more than 20 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

(2) Results include samples taken from untreated (raw) water. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like tetrachloroethylene at the Farms wells, are removed by air stripping and are not detected in the treated drinking water. Air stripping only removes VOCs.

Table of Synthetic Organic Contaminants								
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max)	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, MRDL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Yes (1)	2021	20.6	7.2-20.6	ng/l	NA	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	Yes (1)	2021	15.4	7.5-15.4	ng/l	NA	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS)	No	2021	4.25	3.38-4.25	ng/l	NA	NA	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	No	2021	25.6	6.03-25.6	ng/l	NA	NA	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	No	2021	6.09	2.8-6.09	ng/l	NA	NA	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	No	2021	6.2	ND-6.2	ng/l	NA	NA	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
1,4 dioxane	No	2021	0.26	ND-0.26	ug/l	NA	1	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.

(1) See introduction on page 1 for violation mitigation status

Table of Disinfection Byproducts								
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max)	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, MRDL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, and trichloroacetic acid)	No	8/9/21	2.9	2.0-2.9	ug/l	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalomethanes (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	8/9/21	17.0	16.34-17.0	ug/l	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms

Tap Water Samples Collected for Lead and Copper Analyses at Customer's Taps

Substance (Unit Of Measure)	AL	MCLG	Date Sampled	Amount Detected (90 th Percentile)	Range	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ug/l)	1.3	1.3	6-7/21	0.102	0.039- 0.114	0/5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead(ug/l)	15	0	6-7/21	2	ND-2	0/5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of 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 or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. The level included in the table represents the average of the two highest levels detected. 5 samples were taken and the 90th percentile was 2 ug/l for lead and 0.102 mg/l for copper, which were below the action level. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any location.

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. We are 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

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

Nondetected Contaminants

The following are some of the contaminants tested for but not found in the drinking water:

Coliform bacteria, nitrites, pesticides, and herbicides. Volatile organic compounds include tetrachloroethane, trichloroethane, dichloroethane, dichloropropane, trichlorobenzene, trichloropropane, trimethylbenzene, dichlorobenzene, dichloropropane, butanone (MEK), chlorotoluene, benzene, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, bromomethane, carbon tetrachloride,

chlorobenzene, chloroethane, chloromethane, dichloropropene, dibromoethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, ethylbenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, isopropylbenzene, methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), methylene chloride, n-butylbenzene, n-propylbenzene, naphthalene, o-xylene, p & m-xylene, p-isopropyltoluene, SEC-butylbenzene, styrene, TERT-butylbenzene, toluene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, trichlorofluoromethane, and vinyl chloride.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had MCL exceedances for PFOS and PFOA. The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA and PFOS, like many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals or humans. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure. PFOA and PFOS have caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. Additional studies of high-level exposures of PFOA and PFOS in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOA and PFOS as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes. At the level of PFOA and PFOS detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA and PFOS exposures associated with health effects. The first paragraph (Introduction) of this report identifies the short and long term mitigation measures being taken to address this issue.

We have learned through our testing that other contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

Although lead levels in the district were below the action level, we are 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. We are 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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During the past year, 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 with the exception of PFOS and PFOA as described in this document, 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.

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.
- ◆ 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. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.