

# ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024***

## **Town of Van Etten**

**Van Etten NY 14889**

**Public Water Supply ID# NY0730033**

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations the Van Etten Water District 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 our 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 Heather Gable, our licensed operator, at (607) 589-4435. You can also call the Chemung County Health Department at (607) 737-2019. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. You are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings held the second Thursday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. at the town hall located at 6 Gee 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, 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 about 532 people through 204 service connections. Our water source comes from two 70-foot deep groundwater wells on the Southwest side of the Town. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution to your home. During 2024, our wells supplied sufficient water to meet our needs.

### **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, 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 Chemung County Health Department at (607) 737-2019.

### Contaminants Detected in 2024 (or most recent test)

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	05/2024	0.12	mg/L	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine residual	No	Monthly during 2024	Average: 0.4 Range: 0.03 – 1.2	mg/L	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	Disinfectant added to destroy harmful microbes
Copper 10 samples at customer taps	No	07/2023	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.22 Range: 0.06 – 0.23 <b>Note 1</b>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (Action Level)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead 10 samples at customer taps	No	07/2023	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 3.0 Range: ND – 3.2 <b>Note 1</b>	ug/L	0	15 (Action Level)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting building to water mains, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	07/2024	0.76	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from pastures, fertilizer use; Leaching from septic systems
Sodium	No	07/2024	12	mg/L	N/A	N/A <b>Note 2</b>	Naturally occurring, use of road salt.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	08/2024	10	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	No	08/2024	49	ug/L	N/A	80	
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	No	09/2023	2.4	ng/L	N/A	10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications

**Note 1:** The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile means that 9 of the 10 samples collected were less than or equal to the number given. In the 2023 test round, no result was higher than the action level for lead or copper.

**Note 2:** No MCL; 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

### Definitions used in the table:

<b>Maximum Contaminant Level (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>Milligrams per liter (mg/L):</b> Corresponds to one part of substance in one million parts of liquid. Say, one penny in \$10,000 dollars.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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>Micrograms per liter (ug/l):</b> Corresponds to one part of substance in one billion parts of liquid. Say, one penny in 10 million dollars.
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (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>Action Level (AL):</b> The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.	<b>Treatment Technique (TT):</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>Not Applicable (N/A)</b>	<b>Not Detected (ND):</b> The contaminant was not present in the laboratory sample.
<b>Nanograms per liter (ng/l):</b> Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).	

### 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.

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

In 2024, the Van Etten Water District was in compliance with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

In October 2024 we had an accident refilling our generator with diesel fuel. We immediately shut the well off and implemented testing with DOH guidance along with DEC spill response guidance us on clean up. No compounds or analytes were detected at the time and we continue to monitoring on a quarterly basis to assure the ground water was not contaminated.

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

## Lead:

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. Town of Van Etten water supply 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 Van Etten Town Hall, Harold Shoemaker, at 607-589-4435. 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>.

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 contacting Van Etten Town Hall at 607-589-4435.

## Source Water Assessment:

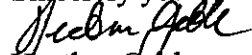
Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the well. The susceptibility rating 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 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. Water suppliers and county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high to medium high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state government) and agricultural land in relation to the wells. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown high hydraulic conductivity. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of this assessment and a map can be obtained by contacting us.

## CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us 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. Please call if you have questions.

Sincerely yours,



Heather Gable

Licensed Water Operator