



**2023**

**VILLAGE OF ALBION WATER SYSTEM  
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

**INCLUDING THE TOWNS OF:  
ALBION, BARRE, CARLTON, GAINES, MURRAY, RIDGEWAY  
AND ALBION/ORLEANS CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

# **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023**

## **Village of Albion Water System**

**35-37 East Bank Street Albion, NY 14411**

**Public Water Supply ID # NY3600596**

Including eight purchase systems in the surrounding towns:

Albion Town WD # NY3623006, Barre Town WD # NY3630002, Carlton Town WD # NY3604569  
Gaines Town WD # NY3600597, Kendall 6 WD # NY3630096, Murray North WD # NY3622603,  
Murray South WD # NY3630012, Ridgeway A WD # NY3630044

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Albion Water System, 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. Last year we conducted tests for over 120 contaminants. We detected 14 contaminants and found none of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. This report provides an overview of last year's 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 Adam Rush, Chief Operator at 682-3962. 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 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. The meetings are held at the Village Office at 35-37 East Bank Street at 6PM.

### **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 source is Lake Ontario which is considered a surface water supply which is located in the Town of Carlton. During 2023, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Treatment consists of pre-treatment disinfection, up flow clarification, filtration, post disinfection, and fluoridation prior to distribution.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The New York State Department of Health completed a Source Water Assessment Report for the Village of Albion Water System as a requirement of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The Executive Summary of the report states that the Great Lakes watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, waste water, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g., *Zebra* Mussels-intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The summary below is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact the drinking water quality of the Village of Albion Water System.

The assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for the source of supply of the Village of Albion Water System. The number of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for Disinfection By-Product precursors, and pesticide contamination. While there are some facilities present, permitted discharges do not likely represent an important threat to source water quality based on their density in the assessment area. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facilities include: mines/quarries.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves approximately 15,000 people in the Village of Albion, Albion/Orleans Correctional Facility, and Towns of Albion, Barre, Carlton, Gaines, Murray and Ridgeway. The total water produced in 2023 was 576,137,000 gallons for an average daily production of 1,578,458 gallons a day. The maximum output for a single day was 2,420,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 447,769,670 gallons. An additional 10,788,396 gallons were used in the treatment process and Village buildings. This leaves 117,578,934 gallons (20.41%) unaccounted for as a result of leaks, flushing, fires, and unmetered Village Buildings. Included in the total water delivered, Village residents used 148,316,045 gallons, the Albion/Orleans Correctional Facility 51,400,208 gallons, the Town of Albion 61,092,281 gallons, the Town of Barre 21,371,350 gallons, the Town of Carlton data unavailable, the Town of Gaines 38,866,242 gallons, the Town of Murray 50,660,280 gallons, and the Town of Ridgeway 1,970,000 gallons.

In 2023, water customers in the Village of Albion were charged \$3.61/1,000 gallons and \$10.00 quarter administration fee for an average yearly charge of \$302. The Albion/Orleans Correctional Facility were charged \$4.35/1,000 gallons for an average yearly charge of \$253 per occupant. The Town of Albion charged \$20.00 for first 500 gallons then \$4.65/1,000 gallons afterwards, for an average yearly charge of \$569. The Town of Barre charged \$5.75/1,000 gallons and a \$27.00 quarter maintenance fee for an average yearly charge of \$529. The Town of Carlton charged \$18.00 for the first 3,000 gallons and \$4.00/1,000 gallons after that for an average yearly charge of \$446. The Town of Gaines charged \$4.65/1,000 gallons and \$16 quarter administration fee for an average yearly charge of \$373. The Town of Murray charged \$10.00 for the first 2000 gallons, a \$10.00 meter fee and \$6.00/1,000 gallons after that for an average charge of \$681. The Town of Ridgeway charged \$25.00 for the first 4,000 gallons and \$5.90/1,000 gallons up to 20,000 gallons and \$5.30/1,000 gallons for amount used over 20,000 gallons for an average charge of \$542. These averages are based on total gallons billed by the Towns and Correctional Facilities plus tax levies.

## **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, 19 inorganic compounds (including nitrate, lead and copper), disinfection and disinfection by products, 61 volatile organic compounds, 57 synthetic organic compounds and radiological. Most of the compounds we analyzed for were not detected in your drinking water.

The table presented 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.

### 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
<b>TURBIDITY</b>							
Finished Water <sup>1</sup> (at entry point)	NO	Continuous	<b>0.020 - 0.163</b>	NTU	N/A	TT-95% <0.3 NTU MCL = 1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Distribution system (various locations)	NO	5 per week	<b>0.037 - 0.520</b>	NTU	N/A	5 NTU	Sediments in storage tanks and piping
<b>INORGANICS / SYNTHETIC ORGANICS</b>							
Barium	NO	8/15/23	<b>0.03</b>	mg/L	2.0	MCL = 2.0 mg/L	Erosion of mineral deposits, discharge from metal refineries
Chromium	NO	8/15/23	<b>ND</b>	mg/L	0.1	MCL = 0.1 mg/L	Erosions of natural deposits, discharge from steel & pulp mills
Fluoride	NO	8/15/23	<b>0.11</b>	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge into streams
Nitrate	NO	3/7/23	<b>0.41</b>	mg/L	10	MCL = 10 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer, septic tank leaching, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	8/12/23 to 8/17/23	<b>0.036</b> <sup>2</sup> (0.002 - 0.061)	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, leaching of wood preservatives
Lead	NO	8/12/23 to 8/17/23	<b>4.0</b> <sup>3</sup> (ND - 6.2)	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	NO	Monthly	<b>30</b> (27 - 32)	mg/L	N/A	MCL = 250 mg/L	Erosion and runoff, naturally occurring, road salt
Hardness (total)	NO	Monthly	<b>125</b> (115 - 138)	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Dissolved minerals
Radium 228	NO	6/16/22	<b>0.97</b> (+ or - 0.36)	pCi/L	N/A	MCL = 5 pCi/L	Erosion of mineral deposits
PFOA (Perfluoro octanoic acid)	NO	3/8/23	<b>ND</b> <sup>5</sup>	ng/L	N/A	MCL = 10 ng/L	Industrial chemical found in many consumer products
PFOS (Perfluoro octanesulfonic acid)	NO	3/8/23	<b>ND</b> <sup>5</sup>	ng/L	N/A	MCL = 10 ng/L	Industrial chemical found in many consumer products
1-4 Dioxane	NO	3/8/23	<b>ND</b>	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 1 ug/L	Industrial chemical
<b>DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>							
Chlorine Residual (at entry point)	NO	Daily	<b>1.33</b> (0.85 - 1.91)	mg/L	N/A	MRDL = 4.0 mg/L	Disinfectant
Chlorine Dioxide	NO	Daily	<b>0.38</b> (0.01 - 0.67)	mg/L	N/A	MCL = 0.8 mg/L (800 ug/L)	Residual Chlorine Dioxide
Chlorite	NO	Daily	<b>0.53</b> <sup>6</sup> (0.22 - 1.15)	mg/L	0.8	MCL = 1.0 mg/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes	NO	Annually	<b>36</b> <sup>4</sup>	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 80 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	NO	Annually	<b>22</b> <sup>4</sup>	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

<b>PURCHASE SYSTEM DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS - samples collected annually - ( same MCLs as above )</b>								
	T/ Albion WD	T/ Barre WD	T/ Carlton WD	T/ Gaines WD	Kendall 6 WD	Murray North WD	Murray South WD	Ridgeway A WD
Chlorine Residual (average) mg/L	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.51</b>
Trihalomethanes ug/L	<b>40</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>38</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>34</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>32</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>26</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>32</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>46</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>61</b> <sup>4</sup>
Haloacetic Acids ug/L	<b>25</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>29</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>8</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>8</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>7</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>20</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>28</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>32</b> <sup>4</sup>

## Notes:

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (0.1628 NTU) for the year occurred on 4/10/23. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. The levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 30 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 copper values detected at your water system. In this case 30 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 0.036 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 samples collected. In this case – 4.0 ug/L (0.004 mg/L). The action level for lead was exceeded at none of the 30 sites tested.

4 – The Village of Albion, and all of its purchase systems, are on reduced monitoring. Therefore, samples for TTHMs and HAA5s were collected only once in August of 2023. For the Village of Albion and the Town of Barre, the higher of two sample sites is reported.

5 – PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid), collectively (PFAS), caused a range of health effects when studied in animals at high exposure levels. The most consistent findings were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFAS as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of lifetime exposure to high levels of PFAS in animals.

6 – Chlorite ion leaving the water plant did exceed the MCL of 1.0 mg/L on 4/7/2023 due to very difficult raw water conditions. Subsequent testing of several samples in the distribution system all showed that the municipal water was well below the MCL

## 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).

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

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

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr):** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that is longer than 10 micrometers.

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 Orleans County Health Department at (585)589-3252.

## **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; these contaminants were found to be below the level allowed by the State.

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 homes plumbing. The Village of Albion 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>.

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

During 2023, our system was in full 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, 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 ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the Village of Albion Water Treatment Plant before it is delivered to you. Due to construction of a new fluoridation facility, fluoride addition was suspended in 2022. We anticipate resuming fluoridation in April of 2024. Since most of the drinking water produced in the United States is now fluoridated, and we also take in some amount of fluoride from food and beverages that are prepared with that water, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental protection Agency has recently lowered the optimal level of fluoride in drinking water to 0.7 mg/L from the previous range of 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the Village of Albion Water Treatment Plant monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis.

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

**Spanish** Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**French** Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le 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.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In December of 2019, The Village of Albion was awarded a \$3.2 Million dollar grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. The grant monies will help us replace aging infrastructure and perform needed upgrades for safety and efficiency. Due to the pandemic, work slowed and throughout 2020 we worked with Wendel Associates to begin the design phase of the improvements. In 2024 we plan to upgrade our SCADA system and upgrade our medium voltage electrical system at the WTP. At booster station #1, we will replace 2 of 3 booster pumps, and replace the 60-year-old 1-million-gallon steel storage tank. During the summer of 2021, we temporarily suspended fluoridation due to inadequate facilities for Hydrofluorosilicic Acid handling and injection. We plan to finish construction of a new fluoride building and injection system during the spring of 2024. The Village of Albion also was awarded another Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant in 2022 for about 8 million dollars. This grant will provide funding to construct a new sedimentation and filtration building to increase capacity, safety and efficiency. The Town of Barre is planning to bid and install District #10 in 2024.

## CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. It is our commitment as New York State Licensed Water Treatment Plant Operators to provide you with the best water quality possible at your tap and we feel this report confirms that we have honored that commitment. A copy of this report will be available at the Village Office, Hoag Library, each of the Town Halls, and for those that have internet access: <https://villageofalbionny.gov/Departments/Water-Treatment-Plant>. If you have any questions, feel free to call:

Water Quality or report a leak- Village of Albion WTP	682-3962	
Customer Service: Village of Albion	589-9176	
Town of Carlton -	682-4358	(Kurt VanWycke, Hwy. Supt.)
Town of Gaines -	589-5833	(Mark Radzinski, Hwy Supt.)
Town of Albion -	589-7048	(Michael Neidert, Hwy. Supt.)
Town of Barre -	589-5100	(Dale Brooks, Hwy. Supt.)
Town of Murray (and Kendall 6) -	638-8507	(Dirk Lammes, Hwy. Supt.)
Town of Ridgeway -	798-3680	(John Olinger, Hwy. Supt.)