

The Odessa File

Watkins Glen's water test results are in, and the numbers contradict August blog

To the Editor on October 16:

As many are aware, in late August a blog post implied that the Village of Watkins Glen water supply was contaminated and this was met with understandable concern and alarm by our citizens. The Village Board, being fully committed to providing for the health and safety of our residents and visitors, took immediate action to investigate these allegations.

As a result, we conducted carefully controlled testing and engaged a certified laboratory to determine accurate measurements of our drinking water. Results of this testing was just received by the village from Microbac Labs. The testing was conducted for all 14 PFAS class of chemicals with particular attention paid to the PFOA and PFOS class, which were the focus of the August blog. There were 14 separate tests conducted from the sample.

Of the 14 categories 12 were recorded as undetectable, including PFOS. PFOA was detected at 1.46 parts per trillion (ppt) while PFHxA was detected at 1.05 ppt. The August blog post reported PFAS levels of 21 ppt; our certified testing determined the level to actually be 2.51 ppt.

The EPA currently has a guideline of 70 parts per trillion limit. While no NY state guidelines currently exist, it is anticipated that it will set PFOA

limits at 10 parts per trillion, which would be one of the strictest limits in the country. Our results are significantly under those limits. Additionally, we have been informed by the state that our test results meet Department of Health requirements for submission when the state releases their standards and requires testing of all public water systems.

The Village of Watkins Glen Board takes very seriously its responsibility to provide clean and safe drinking water. As outlined above, our village has taken the proactive steps to assure our residents that our drinking water is safe. It is unfortunate that misinformation is put out with the appearance of fact and unnecessarily strikes fear in the public.

Additionally, this administration has committed to improve our infrastructure. Ongoing updates to our water systems and the construction of a new waste treatment facility will only strengthen and enhance our future ability to provide the village with clean drinking water and protect this vital resource.

Luke Leszyk
Mayor
Village of Watkins Glen