

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2007

Portville Town Water District

P.O. Box 630, Portville, N.Y. 14770

Public Water Supply ID#NY0430089

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Portville Town 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, 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 sources of our water, 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 Thomas Windus, City of Olean, Director of Public Works, at (716) 376-5650 or Town of Portville Supervisor, Harry Keeley, at (716) 933-6658.** We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. **They are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall on Route 417.**

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR WATER?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 is purchased from the City of Olean, which has two major sources of water. Most water production comes from three wells in east Olean that serve all of east Olean, portions of north Olean, south Olean and most of west Olean. The water from the wells is pretreated through what are known as air strippers and then fluoride and chlorine are added. The other major source of water is Olean Creek and is treated through the City's filtration plant, which is located in north Olean. The water from the filter plant is considered to be very good and of high quality. Treatment at the water plant consists of chemical addition to help settle out particles found in Olean Creek, filtration, pH control to reduce or prevent corrosion, chlorination and fluoridation. The Portville Town Water District serves about 30 people through 9 service connections.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Based on available information, the NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for the City of Olean's water system. This assessment pertains to groundwater (wells) and surface water (Olean Creek). Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The source water assessment includes susceptibility ratings based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential contamination of the source waters. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "ARE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?" for a list of contaminants that have been detected. The source assessments provide resource managers with additional information for

protecting source waters in the future.

As was mentioned before, our water is derived from three wells and Olean Creek. The source water assessment has rated the combined susceptibility to contamination for all of these sources as; very high from halogenated solvents and nitrates; high from cations/anions (salts, sulfate), herbicides/pesticides, metals, other industrial organics and petroleum products; and medium from enteric bacteria, enteric viruses and protozoa. These ratings for the sources are due to their proximity to pasture land, industrial activities, transportation routes and permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). While the assessment rates our sources as being susceptible to enteric bacteria and viruses, please note that our water is disinfected and filtered to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting the City of Olean, as noted above.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The City of Olean's water system serves approximately 15,500 people through 6427 service connections. In 2007, the daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 2,483,792 gallons. The highest single day of production was 4,966,386 gallons. The total production for the year was 906,583,900 gallons. Unaccounted water totaled about 22% of the water produced and includes water that was used to flush mains, fight fires and leaked from the distribution system.

ARE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, the City of Olean routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, Inorganic Chemicals (IOC), nitrate, lead and copper, Principal Organic Contaminants (POC), Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic Acids (HAA), Total Organic Carbon (TOC), Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) and Radionuclides. The Town of Olean routinely tests for lead and copper and total coliform bacteria. The table presented in this report depicts which compounds were tested for and the concentration of the contaminant detected in your drinking water. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected above the MCL for that contaminant 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. A supplement containing all the results for the City of Olean is available in the office of the Department of Public Works, Room 206, Municipal Building. 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 Cattaraugus County Health Department at 373-8050.

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).

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity*	N	03/21/07	0.23	NTU	N/A	TT=0.3	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium - Filter Plant	N	05/24/07	58	ug/l	2000	MCL=2,000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
- M-18	N	5/24/07	25				
- M37/38	N	5/24/07	32				
Fluoride	N	Daily	900-1100	ug/l	N/A	MCL=2,200	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Copper **	N	10/04/06	372 (<10-537)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ***	N	10/04/06	3 (2-3)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate óFilter Plant	N	5/24/07	390	ug/l	10	MCL=10,000	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
- M-18	N	5/24/07	1800				
- M-37/38	N	5/24/07	1100				
Disinfection By-Products							
TTHMs -Total Trihalomethanes	N	Running		ug/l	0	MCL=100	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Filter Plant		Average	43				
Wells		For 2007	36				
HAAAs - Haloacetic Acids	N	Running		ug/l	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Filter Plant		Average	21				
Wells		For 2007	18				
Radioactive Contaminants							
Beta particle Filter Plant	N	4/19/06	2.1	Mrem/yr	0	4 mrem/yr	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium	N	1/18/06	.44	ug/L	0	30 ug/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
M-18		1/18/06	.88				

Notes:

*Turbidity ó is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We Test for it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 3/21/07 (0.23 NTUø). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTUø. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have a measurement below .3 NTUø. Although March was the month when we had the highest measurement, the level recorded was within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

** - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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, five samples were collected

at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average of the highest and second highest values, 372 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

*** - The 90th percentile level for lead was 3 ug/l. None of the five sites exceeded the action level of 15 ug/l.

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.

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).

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.

N/A Not applicable (not tested for, not relevant to Olean's water)

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 OPERATION?

Our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements in 2007.

We constantly test for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with regulatory requirements. This past year we did not violate any monitoring or reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON CRYPOTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Current methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease.

Starting in 2006, the New York State Department of Health gave permission to stop testing for Cryptosporidium, pending approval from USEPA. The next round of testing will not start until 2013.

INFORMATION ON GIARDIA

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where handwashing practices are poor.

Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection.

Starting in 2006, the New York State Department of Health gave permission to stop testing for Giardia pending approval from USEPA. The next round of testing for Giardia will not start until the year 2013.

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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 and helps 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 in your home 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 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 and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.