

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Village of Newark Valley Water District
9 Park St, PO Box 398, Newark Valley NY 13811
(Public Water Supply ID# NY5304407)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Village of Newark Valley 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 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 **Bill Foster, DPW Supervisor at 642-8700**. 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. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Noble Room at the Municipal Building at 7:00 P.M.

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 over 1170 people through about 440 service connections. Our water source is two groundwater wells. The groundwater is drawn from two deep-drilled wells. Well #3 is located on Whig Street adjacent to the Village Highway Department and approximately 120 feet deep. Well #4 is located at the Trout Ponds Park and has a well depth of 144 feet. The water is treated with sodium hypochlorite solution to a minimum of 0.2 and a maximum of 4.0 ppm as a disinfectant prior to distribution and is stored in an above-ground concrete reservoir, which provides about 507,581 gallons of finished water for distribution.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: Turbidity and total coliform, which is bacteria in the water and is tested for each month. Nitrate, nitrite are tested yearly. Inorganic compounds, leads and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds are tested every three years. The table presented below depicts some compounds that 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, might 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 Tioga county Health Department at (1-800-426-4791).

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected in your drinking water.

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
LEAD	NO	6/06/07	<0.001-0.002	Mg/L	0.001	0.015	Corrosion of lead service pipe, brass fitting and household plumbing components
COPPER	NO	6/06/07	<0.25	Mg/L	0.025	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, runoff from fertilizer use.
NITRATE WELL 3	NO	3/02/09	1.05	Mg/L		10	Common sources of nitrate contamination include fertilizers, animal wastes, septic tanks, municipal sewage treatment systems, and decaying plant debris.
NITRATE WELL 4	NO	3/02/09	1.06	Mg/L		10	

We had no contaminant levels that exceeded government EPA and Health Department recommended limits.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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. 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.

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).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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 are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

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. *The Village of Newark Valley Water District* 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 2009, a section of our water system had a low pressure situation located at the far north end of our system that affected the last five households on the system, and was not in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. This required a boil water notice to be put in place for those five residents, and is still in effect at this time for this effected area. Water users in the Town of Newark Valley have formed committees to investigate the problem and are looking into long-term solutions to correct the problem; also in the same area of the low-pressure situation two sections of distribution pipes were not at the required four-foot depth. The Village of Newark Valley and Hunt Engineers supplied the town board and residents with grant information and a comprehensive water system evaluation and possible solutions, and during the year (2009) the Town of Newark Valley residents that are on village water decided to go on private wells. New wells have been drilled for about 22 households, with the rest to follow this year. The village has been assisting the well driller and the town residents to complete this task and keep the water supply safe.

INFORMATION ON RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

In 2008, we collected four representative water samples per quarters that were analyzed for radon. The Radon results i.e., average of the eight samples per well was,

Well # 3 Radium-226 0.05 and Radium-228 1.18,

Well # 4 Radium-226 0.12 and Radium-228 0.44

For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

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. Immune-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).

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 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 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please remember to call if you have to dig anywhere near a water line, any damage done to the water system can be reflected in your water bill. As 2010 starts, we are going ahead with the second part of the water system improvement. The village will be going through a period of construction on many streets. This will not be easy, but I am asking for your patience. During this time most of the intersections will be dug up and some streets will be completely trenched from one end to the other. New hydrants, gate valves and new service valves will be installed on all streets that have a 4 inch water main as they change the mains to 8 inch pipes. The streets that will be affected as of today, are Bridge Street, Silk Street, Clinton Street, Mill Street, Brook Street, Rock Street, Spring Street, John Street, Elm Street, Watson Avenue, Dimmick Street, Lawrence Avenue, and a new supply line to the new reservoir. We will try to make this as orderly as possible, and all the streets will not be dug up at the same time. At this time there are more questions than answers, but please feel free to call the village barn at 642-8700 and I will try to answer any question I can.