

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015
North Creek Water District
Johnsburg, Warren County
(Public Water Supply ID# 5600109)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, North Creek 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 would like to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. Last year we did have 1 reporting violation. The State had scheduled that we collect our Disinfection Byproduct samples during the month of July 2015. Our sample was collected on the August 21, 2015. We are proud to advise you that our Disinfection Byproduct samples did not exceed any maximum contamination levels. Last year, we conducted tests for over 30 contaminants. We detected 5 of those contaminants, and found 0 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. 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 Charlie Rawson, Water System Operator, 518-251-5160. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings. The meetings are held monthly per the schedule found at the town hall and or on the town website.

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 1100 people through 350 service connections. Our water source is 3 ground water wells, 4R, 5, & 6 which are all located in the same aquifer. We have two 100,000 gallon tanks and one 200,000 gallon tank which are used for storage. The water is treated with chlorine for disinfection and orthophosphate for corrosion control prior to distribution.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. 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 wells. 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 the 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.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbials, salts, sulfate, nitrate, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to close proximity of the wells to discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer, which is a shallow aquifer that occurs immediately below the ground surface and has minimal overlying layer to protect it from potential sources of contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination. Public notification is required if regulated contaminants are found in our water, and increased monitoring may result.

The state health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not frequently change. 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 Glens Falls office, New York State Department of Health at (518) 793-3893.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds.

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
Inorganic Compounds							
Manganese	No	1/10/14	<0.009 (JCS Kitchen)	Mg/l	n/a	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Barium	No	9/24/14	0.0057 (Well 4r) 0.004 / Highway Garage	mg/l	2	2 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Iron	No	1/10/14	0.060 (JCS Kitchen)	mg/l	N/A	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring in ground water
Nitrate	No	9/17/13 8/20/14 8/21/15	0.636 0.406 (well 4) 0.268(well 5) 0.949(well 6) 0.576 (E.P. Highway Garage)	mg/l	10	10(MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	9/22/12 8/27/15	0.703 ¹ 0.124-1.16 ² 0.891 ¹ 0.088-0.924 ²	mg/l	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	No	8/27/15	0.003 ¹ ND-0.028 ²	mg/l	1.3	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Chloroform	No	9/24/14	4.2 (E.P. Highway Garage)	Ug/l	n/a	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts⁴							
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/21/15	ND	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/21/15	6.60	ug/l	n/a	80 (MCL)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

Notes:

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested in Sept. 2012. 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 or lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 2nd highest sample result. Lead was not detected at any of the residences tested. The Action Level for copper was exceeded at 1 of the 10 sites that were tested.

2 – The number presented represents the range of copper sample results (lowest to highest).

3 – Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets.

4 - During the 4th Quarter of 2009 and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd and 4th Quarters of 2010, we evaluated our distribution system for the presence of disinfection byproducts. The purpose of this evaluation was to determine future sample locations for routine disinfection byproduct sampling. The study consists of the collection of 2 disinfection byproduct samples once every 90 days. Data from samples collected in 2012 is included in herein.

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 contamination violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded (MCL for Lead is 0.015 mg/L, and our detected level was 0.028 mg/L in one of the samples collected). We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. North Creek 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?

We constantly test for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with regulatory requirements. This past year we monitored for (Disinfection Byproducts) but failed to provide the results to the (Glens Falls office of the Dept. of Health within the required time frame). As mentioned previously in this report. Our system was scheduled to collect Disinfection Byproduct samples during the month of July 2015. We did not collect these samples until August 21, 2015. The samples collected did not exceed any maximum contamination levels. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.

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).

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.

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. We ask that all our customers help us protect our drinking water source. If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this report, please do not hesitate to contact Charlie Rawson at (518) 251-5160.