

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008

Village of Watkins Glen
303 North Franklin St.
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

(Public Water Supply Watkins Glen ID#4801188, Town of Reading #1 ID#4801186 & #2 ID4830034 and Town of Dix ID#4830037)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, **The Village of Watkins Glen, Town of Reading and the Town of Dix** 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. In 2008 your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that last year our water system did not violate any maximum contaminant level. 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 **Mr. Harley Connelly, Water Department Supervisor at (607) 535-6914 or 535- 2736 during regular business hours**. 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 normally the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building at 303 N. Franklin Street. The Town of Dix board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at 304 7th Street Watkins Glen. The Town of Reading meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3914 Route 28.

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 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 Health Department 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 EPA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The revised Source Water Assessment report was not available at the time of printing. This will be included in the Annual water report when the New York Department of Health completes it.

Our water source is surface water drawn from Seneca Lake, which is truly an excellent and clean source. During 2008 our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is collected at the lake and pumped to the filtration plant located on Steuben Street. It is then put through the filtering process that includes treatment with Alum and Soda Ash. The water is then put through flocculation then filtration that include four reinforced concrete filter cells each with a filter area of 100 square feet designed for an approved filtration rate of 3 gallons per minute per square foot. Each filter cell contains thirty inches of dual media comprised of eighteen inches of anthracite and twelve inches of sand on a General Filter Co. multi-crete under drain system that includes media restraining nozzles.

The Village of Watkins Glen system serves a population of 2149 through 943 metered service connections. The average daily usage for the year 2008 was 283,000 a day and total usage for the year was 103,197,000 gallons. The

Town of Reading district #1 and #2 serves a population of 86 through 40 metered service connections. The average daily usage for the year 2008 was 5,721 gallons a day and the total usage for the year was 1,127,984 gallons. The Town of Dix serves a population of 201 through 82 metered service connections in their water system. The average daily usage for the year 2008 was 20,055 a day and the total usage for the year was 7,320,210 gallons.

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, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below 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.

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 New York State Department of Health-Hornell Office, at (607) 324-8371**.

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
Turbidity *1	No	Daily	Avg .055 Monthly Avg.Range .039 -.099	NTU	NA	AL= .3 NTU	Soil run-off
Barium	No	8/07	23	Ug/l	2000	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate	No	9/03	36	Mg/l	NA	MCL=250	Naturally occurring.
Village of Watkins Glen Copper *2	No	8/06	250 Range 250-260	Ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Village of Watkins Glen Lead *3	No	8/06	1.2 Range 1-7	Ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Town of Dix Copper *4	No	7/08	291 Range 154-291	Ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household Plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Town of Dix Lead *5	No	7/08	1.2 Range 0-1.2	Ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Village of Watkins Glen TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] *6	No	2/08 5/08 8/08 10/08	Avg. 58.9	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Town of Dix TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] *6	Yes *9	3/09 6/08 8/08 11/08	Avg. 79.73	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Town of Reading #1 TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] *6	Yes *9	8/07	113	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Town of Reading #2 THM[Total trihalomethanes *6]	No	8/07	72.9	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Town of Reading # 1 HAA [Total haloacetic acids]	No	8/07	25.8	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Town of Reading # 1 HAA [Total haloacetic acids]	No	8/07	16.3	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Nitrate as N	No	4/08	0.71	Mg/l	10	MCL= 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Village of Watkins Glen HAAs [Total Haloacetic Acids]	No	2/08 5/08 8/08 10/08	Avg. 25.2	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-Product of drinking water chlorination.
Town of Dix HAAs [Total Haloacetic Acids]	No	3/08 6/08 8/08 11/08	Ave. 32.3	Ug/l	0	MCL=60	By-Product of drinking water chlorination.
Arsenic *8	No	5/08	1	Ug/L	N/A	MCL=10	Erosion of natural deposits; Run off from orchards; Run off From glass and electronics production waste
Barium	No	5/08	28.4	Ug/L	2000	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta Particles *7	No	2/8 5/8 8/8 11/8	Composited 7.E	pCi/L		MCL=50	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions

***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 for the year occurred on 7/11/08 (0.374 NTU). 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.
2. The copper level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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, ten samples were collected at the Village of Watkins Glen water system and the 90th percentile value was 250ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
3. The Lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 lead values detected at the Village of Watkins Glen water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 1.2 ug/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
4. The copper level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 the Town of Dix water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 490 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 5 The Lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 19 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 lead values detected at the Town of Dix water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 6 ug/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
6. total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's - chloroform, bromodichloromethane, , dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)
7. The State considers 50 pCi/L to be level of concern for beta particles. If beta particles are detected above 50pCi/l, the water supplier must determine the actual radioactive constituents present in the present in the water to calculate the dose exposure level in mrem/year, and must report both the detected level and MCL as mrem/year.
8. Arsenic: NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
9. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Definitions:

Action level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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 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.

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).

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 1 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Non-Detects(ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process in tended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Picocuries per liter(pCi/L): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, The Village of Watkins Glen and Reading #1 and #2 are in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements. During 2008 the Town of Dix wasn't in compliance they exceeded in Total Trihalomethanes

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 or shaving.
- ◆ 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.