Village of Walden, One Municipal Square, Walden, New York 12586

2020 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Public Water Supply ID# NY3503559

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Village of Walden, 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 The Village of Walden Water Department, Mr. Fred Perna at (845) 778-2177 ext. 1521. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

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 sources are Wells No. 4, 5, and 6, which draw from the East Walden well fields located off of Route 52 in the Town of Montgomery, and Wells No. 7 and 8, located off of Lake Osiris Road in the Town of Montgomery. All of our sources are groundwater sources obtained from sand and gravel aquifer wells. The water which is withdrawn from the sources is disinfected with chlorine to kill or inactivate most microorganisms, including essentially all pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria. Ortho-polyphosphate is added to clean pipe interiors and extend their useful life as well as reduce dirty water complaints. All of our wells have been tested and all samples have passed New York State Department of Health drinking water standards for maximum contaminants levels (MCLs). All of our points of use samples have been satisfactory and there have been no violations and no failed bacteriological samples testing results.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP) SUMMARY

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 the consumer is, or will become contaminated. See "Table of Detected Contaminants" 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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from drilled groundwater wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium to medium-high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the low-level residential activity, the pasture and the septic systems that are located in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from a confined aquifer with the estimated recharge area within the selected time of travel and the overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from the potential 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.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting Orange County Health Department at (845) 291-2331.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves a population of approximately 7,000 people through 2,274 service connections. The total water produced in 2020 was 182.5 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution systems was 490,000 gallons. Our highest single day was 760,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 119 million gallons. The Village Water Department over the course of 2019 fixed significant watermain breaks and leaks as they occurred. The Village also meters numerous public buildings and parks that account for approximately 9.1 million gallons of usage. This leaves an unaccounted total of 54.8 million gallons (30% of the total amount produced), which includes water was used to flush mains, fight fires, and any additional unknown leakage. In 2019, water customers were charged $4.50 per 100 cubic feet of water.

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, asbestos, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological 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 Orange County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health at (845) 291-2331.

Table 1 - Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	**Violation** Yes/No	**Date of Sample**	**Level Detected**	**Unit Measure-ment**	**MCLG**	**Regulatory Limit**, **MCL** (or TT or AL)	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic	No	7/28/20	Max=2.0 Range=ND – 2.0	ug/L	N/A	MCL=10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	7/28/20	Max=64 Range=17 - 64	ug/L	2,000	MCL=2,000	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	7/28/20	Max=21 Range=16 - 21	mg/L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Iron	No	7/28/20	Max=83 Range=ND - 83	ug/L	N/A	MCL=300	Naturally occurring
Manganese	No	7/28/20	Max=88 Range=ND - 88	ug/L	N/A	MCL=300	Naturally occurring
Nickel	No	7/28/20	Max=3.4 Range=3.3 – 3.4	ug/L	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	7/28/20	Max=2.6 Range=ND – 2.6	mg/L	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use
Sodium (See Note 3)	No	7/28/20	Max=25 Range=9.2 - 25	mg/L	N/A	See Note 3	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	No	7/28/20	Max=48 Range=23 - 48	mg/L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Lead and Copper							
Copper (See Note 1)	No	8/2020	90^{th}=270 Range=ND - 580	ug/L	1,300	AL=1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (See Note 2)	No	8/2020	90^{th}=1.8 Range=ND – 3.2	ug/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	7/28/20	Max=21 Range=14 - 21	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	7/28/20	Max=6.4 Range=4.7-6.4	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	
Radiological							
Uranium	No	2/18/15	Max=1.47 Range=ND – 1.47	ug/L	N/A	MCL=30	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Perfluorooctane-sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	No	11/9/20	Max=0.587 Range=ND-0.587	ng/L	N/A	MCL=10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Color	No	7/28/20	Max=2.0	Units	N/A	MCL=15	Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter.
Odor	No	7/28/20	Max=1.0	Units	N/A	MCL=3	Naturally occurring

Notes:

1 – The level presented represents the 90^{th} percentile of the 20 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 90^{th} percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90^{th} percentile value was the third highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90^{th} percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested.

3 – Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

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.
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 in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): 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 New York State requirements. 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. The Village of Walden 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 2020, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

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 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.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2020, the Village continued the meter replacement program. Additionally, the Village replaced hydrants and took measures to improve leak detection. In 2021, the Village plans to continue the meter replacement program and searching for leaks in the Village's water system completing repairs as necessary. Well 7 and Well 8 will be cleaned and rehabilitated. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure.

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. Please call our office at (845) 778-2177 ext. 1521 if you have questions.