

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 1999

Wellsville Water Department

*111 W. State St.
Wellsville, NY 14895*

Public Water Supply ID# 01496000

To comply with State and Federal regulations the Wellsville Water Department 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 has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 Dana Harris, treatment plant supervisor at 593-3333. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please visit our web site at www.infoblvd.net/wlsvwater or attend any of our regularly scheduled Village board meetings. The meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building.

Where does our water come from ?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, pond, 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 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 source is surface water drawn from the Genesee River with our intake located just South of the Weidrick Rd. and River Rd. intersection. During 1999 our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is pumped from our intake to the treatment plant. After filtration, disinfection, pH adjustment, fluoridation, and corrosion control treatment, the water is then pumped into the distribution system which includes a 3 million gallon open finished water reservoir.

Facts and Figures

Our water system serves 5700 people through approximately 2400 service connections. The total water produced in 1999 was 288 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 789,500 gallons. Our highest single day was 1,477,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 210 million gallons, this leaves 78 million gallons unaccounted for (27% of the amount pumped). This unaccounted for water includes water used for flushing mains, fighting fires, fire training, and leaks. We also supplied Scio with 8,473,000 gallons of water in 1999. In 1999 our water customers were charged \$0.68 per 1000 gallons of water for 1 to 2200 gallons, and \$4.68 per 1000 gallons of water over 2200 gallons per month, plus a monthly service charge of \$13.00.

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, copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, radiological, and synthetic organic compounds. The table represented below depicts which compound 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 Allegany County Health Department (716-268-9250).

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ¹	No	12/17/99	0.15	ntu	N/A	TT = 0.5 ntu	Soil Runoff
Radiological Contaminants - No contaminants detected							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Chloride	No	08/30/99	38.1	mg/l	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Copper ²	No	08/98	0.46	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	05/07/99	1.49	mg/l	N/A	MCL = 2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead ³	No	08/98	7 (range) ND - 51	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides & Herbicides - No contaminants detected.							
Volatile Organic Contaminants - No contaminants detected							
Disinfection Byproducts - No contaminants detected							

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 12/17/99. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 0.5 NTU. 100% of our samples met this turbidity performance standard.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th 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 90th percentile value was the 18th highest value (0.46 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the sites tested.

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.

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).

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 operations ?

During 1999, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water 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.
- ✓ 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:

- 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 can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

- Use low flow shower heads and faucets.
- Water your lawn sparingly early morning or late evening.
- Do only full loads of wash and dishes
- 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. Most of our meters have a leak detector dial in the middle on them that will turn when everything is off, signifying a leak.
- Don't cut your lawn too short; longer grass saves water.

System Improvements

In 1999, we had generators installed for the treatment plant and intake, this will allow us to operate the plant during any electrical outages. We replaced the 6" main on S. Main from rte. 417 to the Village line with 10". This improvement will increase fire protection in this area. Mains were replaced on portions of Maple, E. Genesee, and Johnson streets. 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. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. In 2000, we plan on constructing a 2 million gallon concrete reservoir (1 of 2 planned) which will help us to continue to provide a high quality water and provide added fire protection for all residents. We are also going to do more main line work; looping parts of W. Dyke, replacing mains on lower Jefferson, Loder and Cameron Streets.

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 to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office or e-mail us at wsvwater@infoblvd.net if you have any questions.

Dana L. Harris
Water Treatment Plant Supervisor