

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2012*

**HALCOTTSVILLE WATER DIST. # 1**  
**Box 577**  
**Margaretville, NY 12455**  
**Public Water Supply ID# 1200264**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, **Halcottsville Water District # 1**, 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. During the year 2012 we tested for several constituents, any detects are included in the table below. We also did coliform testing monthly and all the samples were negative or no detect. 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 Terry Johnson, Water Superintendent, at (845) 586-4945. 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 on the second Tuesday of each month at the Town of Middletown Town Hall starting at 7:00pm until all business is conducted.

## **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 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 about 105 people through 24 service connections. Our water source is three ground water wells, which are located at the west end of the community. The water is pumped from the wells, chlorinated, for disinfection, and then pumped to a 24,000-gallon tank. From this tank the water is then delivered to the service connections to each house.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for our System, based on available information, possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 of water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from three drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of septic systems within the assessment area. In addition the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of

unknown hydraulic conductivity. 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 to 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 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, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and MTBE. 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. All of the contaminants tested for were found to be non-detectable or of such low quantity that they are of no concern.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water might reasonably be 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 Oneonta District Health Department at (607) 432-3911. .

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Nitrate</b>	No	12/13/12	0.21	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead</b>	No	9/27/12	90% - 0.007	mg/l	0	AL 0.015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Copper</b>	No	9/27/12	90%- 0.464	mg/l	1.3	AL 1.3 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>THM</b>	No	9/23/10	0.0287	mg/l	N/A	0.08 mg/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
<b>HAA</b>	No	9/23/10	0.009	mg/l	N/A	0.06 mg/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Radium 226</b>	No	AVG 08	0.6	pCi/L	N/A	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radium 228</b>	No	AVG 08	0.35	pCi/L	N/A	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Alpha</b>	No	AVG 08	2.2	pCi/L	N/A	15 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits

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<b>Arsenic</b>	No	12/20/12	0.004	mg/l	N/A	0.010 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b>	No	12/20/12	0.067	mg/l	2	2 mg/l	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nickel</b>	No	9/17/09	0.003	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Not Defined
<b>Iron</b>	No	9/17/09	0.023	mg/l	N/A	0.3 mg/l	Naturally occurring.
<b>Manganese</b>	No	12/20/12	0.051	mg/l	N/A	0.3 mg/l	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
<b>Sodium</b>	No	12/20/12	24	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
<b>Zinc</b>	No	12/20/12	0.035	mg/l	N/A	5.0 mg/l	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
<b>Chloride</b>	No	12/20/12	17.3	mg/l	N/A	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
<b>Sulfate</b>	No	12/20/12	5.4	mg/l	N/A	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring.

**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).

**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.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2012, 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 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.

## **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 call our office if you have questions.