

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Village of Trumansburg Water Department
56 East Main Street Trumansburg, New York
(Public Water Supply ID#5404417)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Trumansburg, 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 the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. In 2009 we conducted tests for sodium, nitrate, lead and copper. 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 Bruce Vann, Public Works Supervisor, 387-5618. 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 the second Monday of each month, at 7:00 P.M., in the main meeting room of the Village Hall at 56 East Main Street.

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 of New York 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 of the groundwater type. The primary source, known as the Frontenac Well, is located at Frontenac Point, on Frontenac Road, in the Town of Covert. The second source, known as the Hoffmire Well, is located on Indian Fort Road, in the Town of Ulysses. This well is considered an emergency source and can be used only with prior approval of the Tompkins County Health Department. The water pumped from either of these wells is treated with chlorine, for disinfection, before it enters the distribution system. Our water system serves approximately 2300 people through roughly 804 service connections. In 2009 we produced 74,485,000 gallons of water with an average of 204,068 gallons per day.

Source Water Protection. The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual sources of contamination 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 section “**Are There Contaminants In Our Drinking Water?**” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. No contaminants have been detected at levels that impact health. The source water assessments provide the water system operators with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As noted elsewhere in this report, most of our water is derived from one drilled well. The source water assessment has rated our primary well as having a medium susceptibility to any contamination. Few significant sources of contamination were identified. The well draws from an unconfined aquifer and the hydraulic conductivity is unknown. Please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State Department of Health and EPA standards for microbial contamination.

County and state health departments 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 in this report.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, 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 the 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 Tompkins County Health Department at 274-6688.

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
Nitrate	No	11-18-09	2.47	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	9-23-09	38.1	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects	Naturally occurring, road salt, animal waste
Barium	No	8/20/07	38	ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling waste, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	9/23/09	7.1* (range 1 to 7.4)	ug/l	0	AL – 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	9/23/09	143** (range 57.4 to 556)	ug/l	1300	AL –1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Asbestos	No	12/8/04	0.200	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains, erosion of natural deposits
Total Haloacetic Acids (Mono, Di, and Tri chloroacetic Acids, Mono and Di bromoacetic Acids)	No	8/22/07	13.7	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes (Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane and Bromoform)	No	8/22/07	25	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

Notes:

* – The 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 from our water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (6.4 ug/l). The action for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested

** – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Health Effects:

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

Further information concerning these and other detected contaminants is included in the section entitled “What does this information mean?”

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 (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.

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).

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Not Available (N/A) There is no information listed under this category in the state sanitary code.

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 2009, 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.

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. In 2009 the Village installed new pumps, pump motors and motor drives at our Rt. 89 Pump Station. The costs of these and other 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.