



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

# **2015 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. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Village Hall located at One Municipal Square, Walden, New York. You can also contact the Orange County Department of Health if you have any questions at (845) 291-2331.

## **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.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves a population of approximately 7,000 people through 2,274 service connections. The total water produced in 2015 was 223 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution systems was 624,000 gallons. Our highest single day was 931,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 125 million gallons. The Village Water Department over the course of 2015 fixed over 12 significant watermain breaks and leaks. The Village also meters numerous public buildings and parks that account for approximately 5.7 million gallons of usage. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 92 million gallons (41% of the total amount produced), which includes water was used to flush mains, fight fires, and any additional unknown leakage. In 2015, 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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, 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 (Average) (low to high)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit, MCL (or TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic	No	8/14/14	Max=1.9 Range=ND - 1.9	ug/L	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	8/14/14	Max=61 Range=17 - 61	ug/L	2,000	2,000	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	8/14/14	Max=39 Range=12 - 39	mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Fluoride	No	8/14/14	Max=0.95 Range=ND - 0.95	mg/L	N/A	2.2	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Manganese	No	8/14/14	Max=120 Range=ND - 120	ug/L	N/A	300	Leaching from natural deposits
Nickel	No	8/14/14	Max=1.6 Range=1.5 - 1.6	ug/L	N/A	100	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	6/17/15	Max=1.1 Range=0.3 - 1.1	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
Sodium (See Note 3)	No	8/14/14	Max=21 Range=5.5 - 21	mg/L	N/A	See Note 3	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	No	8/14/14	Max=48 Range=24 - 48	mg/L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Lead and Copper							
Copper (See Note 1)	No	6,9/2014	90 <sup>th</sup> =700 Range=10 - 760	ug/L	1,300	AL=1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (See Note 2)	No	6,9/2014	90 <sup>th</sup> =7.8 Range=ND - 31	ug/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	7/28/15	Average=14.7 Range=10.5 - 18.8	ug/L	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	7/28/15	Average=7.2 Range=4.4 - 9.9	ug/L	N/A	60	
Radiological							
Uranium	No	7/28/15	Average=1.47 Range=ND - 1.47	ug/L	N/A	30	Erosion of natural deposits

## Notes:

- 1 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the third highest value, 700 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at 2 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.
- 4 – The State allows us to monitor these contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. The presented information is from the most recently collected samples.

## 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).

**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. It should be noted that during 2011 the action level for lead was exceeded at 3 of the 26 sample sites. 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 2015, 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).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2015 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 100% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **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 2015 the Village replaced the well pump and rehabilitated for Well No. 5 and Phase 1 of the meter replacement program began in 2015. In 2016 the Village plans on rehabilitating Well No. 7 & 8 and continuing the meter replacement program. 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.