Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010
Wilmington Water District
Town of Wilmington
PO Box 180 Wilmington, NY 12997
(Public Water Supply ID NY1500300)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Wilmington Water District 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. 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 Randy Preston, Town Supervisor at (518) 946-7179. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, we would be pleased to discuss any drinking water issues in person or please feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Community Center on Springfield Road.

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 system serves approximately 980 people through 400 service connections. The water source consists of a dam impoundment on White Brook, which is located off the Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway. A dam impoundment on Red Brook, located just north of White Brook, serves as an auxiliary water source. Water from both of these surface sources is filtered, disinfected, and treated for corrosion control prior to distribution.

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 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, is 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 (1-800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department (518) 891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity[1]	No	8/24/10	0.27	NTU	n/a	TT=<1NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity[1]	No	2010	100 % < 0.3	NTU	n/a	TT=95%of samples <0.3NTU	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	8/10	0.0022	mg/l	2	2(MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	no	8/10	0.13	mg/l	na	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic systems & erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	no	9/05	6.8	mg/l	na	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Copper	no	2010	0.05[2] .001 - .18[3]	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Iron	no	9/05	73	ug/l	na	300	Naturally occurring
Lead	no	7/08	0.003[2] ND – 0.0041[3]	mg/l	0	.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Sodium	no	9/05	4.2	mg/l	na	(see Health Effects) [4]	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	no	9/05	5	mg/l	na	250	Naturally occurring
Zinc	no	9/05	0.16	mg/l	na	5	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 228	no	10/08	0.378	pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	no	3/01	0.23	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	no	3/01	<0.7	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Disinfection Byproducts- Stage 1							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	no	8/10 11/10	60 55	ug/L	na	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	no	8/10 11/10	75 [5] 83	ug/l	na	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Disinfection Byproducts- Stage 2							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	n/a	2009	9.4-39 Range of 8 samples	ug/L	na	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	n/a	2009	17-52 Range of 8 samples	ug/l	na	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of our water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our single highest measurement for the year occurred on 8/24/2010 (.027 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must not exceed 1NTU rounded off to the nearest whole number. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected in a month have measurements below 0.3NTU.

[2] – 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 3rd highest value.

[3] – The level presented represents a range of the samples collected. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 test sites.

[4] - 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.

[5] - A violation is determined after there are 4 quarterly samples collected and averaged. Only 2 samples were collected in 2010 at the direction of NYSDOH. Quarterly samples were started as soon as the new storage tank was placed in service.

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.

Milligrams per liter (mg/1): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/1): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is 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 the level allowed by the State. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Wilmington 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Last year our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The NYS Department of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information.

The assessment area for this drinking water source contains no discrete PCSs, and none of the land cover contaminant prevalence ratings are greater than low. However, the high mobility of microbial contaminants in reservoirs results in this drinking water intake having medium-high susceptibility ratings for protozoa and enteric bacteria and viruses. Furthermore, reservoirs are highly susceptible to water quality problems caused by phosphorus additions.

The health department 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 below.

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. 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 at (518) 946-7179 if you have questions.