

**Annual Water Quality Report for 2016**  
**North Cohocton Water District**  
**19 South Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 200**  
**Atlanta NY 14808**  
**PWS #5001226**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of North Cohocton 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 State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum containment level. 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 Berry Fairbrother, Water System Operator at (585) 447-0884. 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. Meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month at the North Cohocton Town Court Facility, 19 S. Main St. Atlanta, starting around 7:00 p.m.

**Where does our water come from?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system, at the time of this report, serves approximately 485 residents (excluding commercial business) through 217 service connections. Our water sources are well #2 and well#3. Both wells are located on River Street, in the Hamlet of Atlanta, in the Township of North Cohocton. Well #2 is 62 feet deep and is capable of pumping 400 gallons per minute. The water is treated by hypo chlorination prior to distribution. Well #3 is 56 feet deep and is capable of pumping 200 gallons per minute. The water is treated by hypo chlorination prior to distribution

At the time of this report, a source water assessment was not available from the NYS Department of Health. For any questions regarding this assessment, please contact the Hornell District Office of the NYS Department of Health at 607-324-8371.

**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, halo acetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water to date. 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, through representative, may be more than one year old. Based on hydro geologic reports and the close proximity of the two wells (approximately 200'), the wells are most likely drawing from the same aquifer. For this reason, sampling from one well will be representative of both wells in the future.

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) 426-7491 or the Hornell Office New York State Department of Health at (607) 324-8371.

The following is a list of compounds that we analyzed for that were detected in your drinking water listed are only detects and not a violation.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination & Health Effects
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead *1	No	6/4/14 Through 7/9/14	90% = 3 Range: ND – 3.1	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper *1	No	6/4/14 Through 7/9/14	90% = .09 Range: .0036-0.11	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Nitrate	No	2016 Quarterly	Avg. 5.0 Range 4.4 – 5.7	mg/l	N/A	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/6/14 Max Res Time	14	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	3/26/14 Entry Point	7.3	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	No	8/6/2014	9.0	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
<b>Radiological</b>							
Barium	No	3/26/14	0.122	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Beryllium	No	3/26/14	1.3	ug/l	4	4	

According to State regulations, the Town of North Cohocton Water District routinely monitors your drinking water for various contaminants. Your water is tested for nitrates, bromomethane, chloroethane and chloromethane. Additionally, your water is tested for coliform bacteria once per month. The contaminants detected in your drinking water are included in the Table of Detected Contaminants. North Cohocton Water District During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, we did not fully monitor or test for nitrate chemicals; and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

\*1 - Lead & Copper Results: 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.

## Definitions:

- **MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level**, the “maximum allowed” MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology,;
- **MCLG-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the MCLG is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety;
- **Mrem/yr-Millirems per year**-measure of radiation absorbed by the body;
- **ppm-Parts Per Million**, one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000;
- **ppb-Parts Per Billion**, one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000;
- **mg/l-Milligrams per liter**-corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000;
- **AL-Action Level**-the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow;
- **ug/l-Micrograms per liter** (equivalent to parts per billion);
- **TTHM-Total Trihalomethanes**;
- **MRDL-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**-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;
- **MRDLG-Maximum Residential Disinfectant Level Goal**-the level drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

## What does this information mean?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

### General 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 Town of North Cohocton 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?

North Cohocton Water District During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, we did not fully monitor or test for nitrate chemicals; and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

## 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. Immunocompromised 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/CDD 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).

## Closing

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with safe, reliable water this year. Remember that if you have any questions regarding your drinking water, please contact Berry Fairbrother at (585) 447-0884, you may also contact any or all of your local Board Members.

Sincerely,

Thomas Schwartz, Water System Operator