

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014*

*Village of Millerton Water System (Public Water Supply ID#NY1302771)*

*Town of North East Water District (WD #1 ID# NY1330293)*

*Millerton, New York 12546*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Village of Millerton Water System, 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. 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, Village of Millerton Water Department @ 518-789-4756. 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 held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

## **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 source is a well field located along Route 22 at the Millerton Water Department site. It consists of two 10-inch diameter wells in an unconsolidated aquifer composed of sand and gravel approximately 50 feet in thickness. Water is pumped to one elevated storage tank located to the east of the well field. The water is chlorinated at the pumping plant prior to distribution. Our water system serves approximately 2000 people through 600 service connections. During 2014, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

The New York State Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for our system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to our 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 of how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. **The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for the contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated.** See the section, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbial contamination, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the residential and agricultural land use in the assessment area, as well as the close proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and a hazardous substance spill. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the

overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from contamination. While the source water assessment has rated our wells as being susceptible to microbial contamination, please note the our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The County and State 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 can be obtained by contacting us as noted above.

### **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 coliforms, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table 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.

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 Dutchess County Health Department at 845-486-3404.

**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
Barium	NO	7/11/12	0.005	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	NO	9/25/14 9/27/14	0.05-.341 90th percentile =0.134	mg/l	1.3  See note 1	AL=1.3  See note 1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	NO	9/25/14 9/27/14	(<.001-.009) 90th percentile =0.005	mg/l	0  See note 2	AL=.015  See note 2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	NO	8/15/14	1.92	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Iron	NO	8/15/14	0.007	mg/l	NA	0.3	Naturally occurring.
TTHM	NO	8/14/14	3.25	ug/l	NA	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:**

1 – The copper 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 the water system and the 90th percentile value (0.134 mg/l) includes levels detected from 0.05mg/l to 0.341 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

**2** – The lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The 90th percentile for lead was 0.005 mg/l. The 10 lead samples range from <0.001-0.009 mg/l. The (0.015 mg/l) action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

## **Definitions:**

**Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**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.

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

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

## **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. 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 Millerton 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?**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2014, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements for testing Principal Organic Contaminants (POC's), Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOC's) and our monthly Total Coliforms which all came back well below the State Regulatory limits.

## **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.
- ♦ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

## **CLOSING**

The water rates were increased in 2008 to facilitate the Water Fund revenues which sustain the Water Fund expenses. Future plans are to create a Reserve Fund for capital repairs to the Water System. 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 if you have questions.