

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Village of Walton
21 North Street Walton, NY 13856
(Public Water Supply ID# 1200274)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Walton, 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 Roger Hoyt, Public Works Superintendent, at (607)865-6110. 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 first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. If the meeting night falls on a holiday, the meeting is held the following Monday at the same time.

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.

Two well fields supply the Village of Walton.

Austin Lincoln Well Field – Located on Townsend Street in Austin-Lincoln Park, this well field contains two wells.

Curry Well Field – Located on Water Street, this well field contains two wells.

Together, the well fields produce an average of 433,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a reserve capacity in excess of 400,000 gpd. The water is treated with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) for disinfection, and caustic soda for corrosion control, before distribution. During 2009, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

In May of 2003, the NYS DOH completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 CONSUMERS IS, OR WILL BECOME, CONTAMINATED.** While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, it should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high for this area. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two (2) well fields containing four (4) wells. The source water assessment has rated two of these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government), low intensity residential activities, toxic chemical release facilities, mines, and chemical bulk storage facilities within the assessment area. In addition, the well(s) draws from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. **While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbials, please note that 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.** A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be examined in our office, by contacting us, as noted above.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 3070 people through 1206 service connections. The total water produced in 2009 was 158.8 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 435,000 gallons per day. The amount of water delivered to customers was 75.49 million gallons. A total of 793,000 gallons was used at the pool. Some water was used to fight

fires, flush mains, and other non-metered activities. The Village of Walton continues to pursue an active leak detection program. A large infrastructure improvement project is underway to replace several antiquated and leaking water mains. In 2009, water customers were charged \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons of water and the annual average water charge per user was \$ 177.00.

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, 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 Oneonta office of the NYS Health Department at (607)432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCL G	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (A)	No	11/10/09	.67	mg/l		10.0 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (C)	No	11/10/09	.87	mg/l		10.0 mg/l	
Lead action	No	9/04	<.0005-.018	mg/l			One sample exceeded the .015 level for Lead. 90 th percentile level .004*
Copper	No	9/04	<.023-1.2	mg/l			No samples exceeded the 1.3 action level for Copper. 90 th percentile level 1.2**
Barium (C)	No	09/23/08	.035	mg/l		2.0 mg/l	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Barium (A)	No	09/23/08	.023	mg/l		2.0 mg/l	
Fluoride (A)	No	9/23/08	.13	mg/l		2.2 mg/l	Erosion of; natural deposits Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Fluoride (C)	No	9/23/08	.14	mg/l		2.2 mg/l	
Arsenic (C)	No	9/23/08	.0006	mg/l		.01 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Manganese (C)	No	9/23/08	.022	mg/l		.30 mg/l	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination
Iron (A)	No	9/23/08	.013	mg/l		.30 mg/l	Naturally occurring
Iron (C)	No	9/23/08	.026	mg/l		.30 mg/l	
Sulfate (A)	No	9/23/08	7.55	mg/l		250 mg/l	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (C)	No	9/23/08	7.29	mg/l			
Radium 226 (A)	No	9/23/08	.075	pCi		5 pCi	Erosion of natural deposits

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCL G	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radium 226 (C)	No	Average	.02	pCi			
Radium 228 (A)	No	Average	.43	pCi		5 pCi	
Radium 228 (C)	No	Average	.26	pCi			
Alpha (A)	No	Average	0	pCi		15 pCi	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha (C)	No	Average	.43	pCi			
Sodium (A)	No	09/23/08	4.18	mg/l			Naturally occurring; Road salt, water softeners, animal waste. Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets.
Sodium (C)	No	09/23/08	47.1	mg/l			
Chloride (A)	No	09/23/08	6.52	mg/l		250 mg/l	
Chloride (C)	No	09/23/08	4.4	mg/l			Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination. No health effects. The MCL for chloride is the level above which the taste of water may become objectionable. In addition, to the adverse taste effects, high chloride concentration levels in the water contribute to the deterioration of domestic plumbing and water heaters. Elevated chloride concentrations may also be associated with the presence of sodium in drinking water.

Notes:

C – Curry Wells

A – Austin Lincoln Wells

*– 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 values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was .004. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the sites tested.

** – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for copper was exceeded at none of the 10 sites tested.

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).

Parts per billion (ppb): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid

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

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

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

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.

It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded [in one of the samples collected](#). 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. Lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. [The Village of Walton](#) 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 2009, our system complied 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 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, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2010-11, we will perform a major upgrade of the water infrastructure. The costs of the improvements are reflected in the rate structure. The significant increase in rates is necessary to assure a safe and reliable water supply to our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of this community.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year.