

North Castle Water District No.1

Annual Water Supply Report for 2009

Public Water Supply Id # 5903445

Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of North Castle Water District No.1 is issuing an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of the 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 of where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

Is my drinking water safe? Absolutely!

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards. North Castle vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our System has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Where does my water come from?

The source of drinking water for North Castle Water District No.1 comes from a well on South Kensico Avenue in Valhalla, which is softened and disinfected, and delivers Fifty percent (50%) of your drinking water. The remaining portion is purchased from The New York City Water Board. The water purchased is pre-treated and disinfected by Westchester County Water District No. 1 after being drawn from the Kensico Reservoir, which is an unfiltered surface water source. Kensico delivers high quality water. Water District No. 1 serves approximately 2500 people through 653 service connections.

The NYS DOH has evaluated the susceptibility of water supplies statewide to potential contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

This PWS obtains water from the New York City water supply system. Water either come from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds east of the Hudson River and/or from the Croton watershed in Putnam and Westchester counties. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) implements a series of programs to evaluate and protect source water quality within these watersheds. Their efforts focus on three important program areas:

The enforcement of strengthened Watershed Rules and Regulations; the acquisition and protection of watershed lands; and implementation partnership programs that target specific sources of pollution in the watersheds. Due to these intensive efforts, the SWAP methodologies applied to the rest of the state were not applied for this PWS. Additional information on the water quality and protection efforts in these New York City watersheds can be found at DEP's web site www.nyc.gov/dep/watershed

Specifically, this PWS obtains its water from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds east of the Hudson. The reservoirs in this mountainous rural area are relatively deep with little development along their shorelines. The main water quality concerns associated with land cover is agriculture, which can contribute microbial contaminants, pesticides, and algae producing nutrients. There are also some potential contamination concerns associated with residential lands and associated wastewater discharges. However, advanced treatments which reduce contaminants are in place for most of these discharges. There are also a number of other discrete facilities, such as landfills, chemical bulkstorages, etc. that have the potential to impact local water quality, but large significant water quality problems associated with these facilities are unlikely due to the size of the watershed and surveillance and management practices.

Monitoring and reporting violations

There have been no reporting or monitoring violations during 2009.

Explanation of reasons for variance/exemption

The district is not operating under any variance or exemption.

IMPORTANT WATER CONSERVATION NOTICE

The need to conserve water during times of drought is obvious to all. It is just as important to use water wisely when the supply is plentiful. However, with the ever-increasing installation of automatic irrigation systems, it is mandatory that we begin a water conservation program relative to irrigation. Most systems have automatic programmable timers, in addition to which we will require that rain sensors be installed, so as to avoid needless watering. The following irrigation practices will be enforced for all irrigation. Homes with even numbered addresses will water even numbered days, and homes with odd numbered addresses will water on odd numbered days. These restrictions shall apply all year, even during non-drought periods. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated!

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

The safe drinking water act requires that the following information be included in this notice.

Are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 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. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data Table

North Castle Water District No.1 is required by the State Sanitary Code, Subpart 5-1, to monitor raw water and treated water quality by collecting and analyzing samples for various contaminants. Raw water samples are collected annually for organic and inorganic contaminants. Treated water is also sampled annually for inorganic contaminants.

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Max. Range)	Unit Measure.	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform	No	1/09-12/09	0 Positive samples	N/A	0	MCL= 2 or more Positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

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Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Max. Range)	Unit Measure.	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes ³ (TTHMs chloroform bromodichloromethane dibromodichloromethane & bromoform)	No	Qtrly 2009	48.4 ⁴ (16.89-48.4)	µg/l	N/a	MCL=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 ³ (mono-,di-,& trichloroacetic acid,& mono-&di-bromoacetic acid)	No	Qtrly 2009	60. ⁴ (14.98-60.)	µg/l	N/a	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross alpha activity	No	3/12/08	0.76	pCi/L	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium - 226 and 228	No	3/12/08	2.62	pCi/L	0	MCL=50	Erosion of natural deposit
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	7/14/09 ^(A) 7/14/09 ^(B)	0.045 0.0242 (0.0242-0.045)	Mg/l	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	7/14/09 ^(A) 7/14/09 ^(B)	145 10.3 (10.3-145)	Mg/l	N/a	MCL=250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Chromium	No	7/14/09 ^(A)	0.0064	Mg/l	100	MCL=100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	7/14/09 ^(A) 7/14/09 ^(B)	127 7.55 (7.55-127)	Mg/l	N/a	Water containing more than 20mg/l should not be used by people with severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.	Naturally occurring; Road Salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Sulfate	No	7/14/09 ^(A)	18.8	Mg/l	N/a	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Manganese	No	7/14/09 ^(B)	11.7	µg/l	N/a	MCL=300Ug/l	Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	7/14/09 ^(A) 7/14/09 ^(B)	1.29 0.172 (0.172-1.29)	Mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	No	7/14/09 ^(A) 7/14/09 ^(B)	0.0125 0.0031 (0.0031-0.0125)	Mg/l	N/a	MCL=5	Naturally occurring; mining waste
LEAD & COPPER							
Copper	No	7/16/2008- 8/1/08	0.16 ¹ (.036-.018)	Mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of Galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	7/16/2008- 8/1/08	3.5 ² (<MRL-4.4)	µg/l	15	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

KEY: ppb: = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l) NA: =Not applicable ND: =Not detected NR:= Not reported MNR:= Monitoring not required, but recommended. ppm: =parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) # of monthly positive samples: = Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
MCLG: =Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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. **MRL:** =Method Reporting level-Lowest level of a particular contaminant that the lab can report for a specific analysis.

MCL: = Maximum Contaminant Level: 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. **pCi/L;**=picocuries per liter

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

1-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.

2-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at 1 of the 10 sites tested.

³- Distribution system sample ⁴. Two Sample sites analyzed

^(A)= Valhalla Well Supply

^(B)= North Broadway / Kensico Supply

The previous table demonstrates that we have had no violations. We are proud to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. 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 & copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. Although the samples illustrated are only a few of the many constituents we have sampled for, some of which have had detects. The EPA has determined that your drinking water is safe at these levels.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2009, as part of a sampling program New York City Department of Environmental Protection (N.Y.C.D.E.P.) routinely collected samples and analyzed for Cryptosporidium cysts. Some samples had detects, however, current test methods used do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

INFORMATION ON GIARDIA

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. During 2009, as part of a sampling program New York City Department of Environmental Protection (N.Y.C.D.E.P.) routinely collected samples and analyzed for Giardia cysts. Some samples had detects, however, current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where hand washing practices are poor.

Further information regarding NYCDEP Cryptosporidium or Giardia is available at -<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/pathogencat.html>

Lead

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. *North Castle* 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>.

Sampling for lead was last performed during 2008. Due to previous sample results being below the action level, we are on a reduced monitoring program set by the state (every three years). We will sample again for lead during 2011.

Fluoridation The water supplied in Water District No.1 is not Fluoridated!

For more information contact:

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