

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009***  
**Town of Northampton-Sacandaga Park Water District**  
412 South Main Street, PO Box 479, Northville, NY 12134  
(Public Water Supply Identification Number NY1700022)

**INTRODUCTION**

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 1 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we modified our treatment process to rectify this problem. This report is 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 New York State standards. Our constant goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. If you have any questions concerning this report or concerning your drinking water please contact: *Mr. Kenneth Cramer, Licensed Water Plant Operator, PO Box 479; 412 S. Main Street, Northville, NY 12134; telephone (work)(518) 862-4282 or (home) (518) 863-6625.* We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 412 South Main Street, PO Box 479 Northville, NY 12134 telephone (518) 863-8829.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

Drinking water for the Town of Northampton comes from a "groundwater" supply located on Mountain Road and County Highway 123. Groundwater or well water is stored below the surface of the earth in deep, porous rocks called "aquifers." Groundwater is purified naturally as it filters through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. This process, known as "percolation" takes years to complete. As a result, groundwater requires less treatment than surface water. We pump this groundwater out through our well. The groundwater supply is comprised of 3 wells, each of which can supply 80 gallons/minute. Well #4 serves as a back-up well to use in case of emergency and has a yield of 60 gallons/minute. Chlorine in the form of sodium hypochlorite is added to the water, which is used for disinfection to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria and other organisms. We also add soda ash to raise the pH along with orthophosphate to reduce the corrosivity of the water.

The source water assessment performed by the New York State Health Department has rated our source water as having a medium-high susceptibility to bacteria, viruses, protozoa, nitrates, halogenated solvents, herbicides, pesticides, metals, petroleum products and other industrial organic compounds. It should be noted that the SWAP looks at the untreated water only. Our water is treated to minimize the potential sources of contamination. The SWAP summary for our water supply is attached to this report.

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 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.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

The Town serves water to approximately 830 persons through 216 service connections. Our average daily demand was 43,167 gallons. Our single highest day was 129,000 gallons. The total water produced in 2009 was 15,771,000 gallons. Much of the distribution system is made up of cast-iron and steel pipes.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with State regulations, the Town of Northampton routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for inorganic contaminants, radiological contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, and synthetic organic contaminants. In addition, we test 1 sample for coliform bacteria each month. The table presented below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old and is noted.

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 pose 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 New York State Department of Health, Herkimer District Office at (315) 866-6879.

TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS						
Public Water Supply Identification Number NY1700022						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> (sample data from 8/19/08 unless otherwise noted)						
Chloride	N	31	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Copper (sample data from 9/29/2009)	N	510 <sup>1</sup>	ppb	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Range of copper concentration		130-540				
Lead (sample data from 9/29/2009)	Y	48 <sup>2</sup>	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Range of lead concentration		ND-66				
Manganese	N	20	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Nitrate (sample from 8/19/09)	N	0.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks
Odor	N	1	units	N/A	3	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges: natural sources
pH	N	7.4	units		6.5-8.5	
Sodium <sup>3</sup>	N	32.6	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Sulfate	N	8	ppm	N/A	250	Geology;
Zinc	N	20	ppb	N/A	5000	Galvanized pipe; <b>corrosion inhibitor</b>
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
TTHM[Total Trihalomethanes](Average) <sup>4</sup> Sample from 7/24/07	N	5.4	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Chlorine (continuous monitoring) average	N	1.62	ppm	MRDLG	MRDL	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
Range of chlorine residuals		1.15-1.97		N/A	4	
FOOTNOTES-						
1. The level presented represents the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 test sites. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested						
2. The level presented represents the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 10 test sites. The action level for lead was exceeded at 2 of the 10 sites tested						
3. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets.						
4. The average is based on a running annual average						
<i>Non-Detects (ND)</i> - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.						
<i>Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)</i> - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.						
<i>Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter</i> - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.						
<i>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value</i> - The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system						
<i>Action Level</i> - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.						
<i>Maximum Contaminant Level</i> - 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.						
<i>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</i> - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.						
<i>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)</i> : 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.						
<i>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)</i> : The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.						
N/A-not applicable						

**What does this information mean?**

*The table above revealed that in September 2009, the water level for lead exceeded the Action Level of 15 ppb in more than 10 percent of the homes tested. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).*

The Town of Northampton Water District adds a phosphate inhibitor to the water supply to control corrosivity. We will make some adjustments to the feed rate to optimize corrosion control. We will be doing additional lead and copper sampling between January and June 2010 and July and December 2010 to see if our corrosion control treatment is working properly and providing the desired results.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected; however, these compounds were detected below New York State requirements. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2009, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

**IS OUR WATER SAFE FOR EVERYONE?**

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 microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**WHAT IS THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)?**

To emphasize the protection of surface and ground water sources used for public drinking water, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1996. The amendments require that New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection is responsible for ensuring that source water assessments are completed for all of New York's public water systems.

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

The Town of Northampton encourages water conservation. There are a lot of things you can do to conserve water in your own home. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when there is a full load
- ◆ Use water saving showerheads
- ◆ Install faucet aerators in the kitchen and the bathroom to reduce the flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute
- ◆ Water gardens and lawn for only a couple of hours after sunset
- ◆ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair all leaks promptly
- ◆ Take shorter showers

**CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

**Northampton W.D. # 1**  
**NY170022**  
**Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this 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 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. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants, if any, that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 3 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to bacteria, viruses, protozoa, nitrates, halogenated solvents, herbicides, pesticides, metals, petroleum products and other industrial organic compounds. While no significant sources of contamination have been identified in the assessment area, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer with high hydraulic conductivity.

Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

County and state health departments 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 full Source Water Assessment, including a map of the assessment area, is available for review by contacting us at the number provided in this report.