

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 1998

Village of Mohawk

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. The purpose of this report is to provide information about the quality of water that we provide to you. Our constant goal is to provide you with 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 protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Art Baum, Public Utilities Foreperson, at (315) 866-4170**. 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 village board meetings. **The meetings are held at the Village Hall located at 28 Columbia Street, Mohawk, NY.**

Where does our water come from?

Our water source is a groundwater source consisting of two drilled wells, that for the purpose of this report shall be referred to as Well #2 and Well #3. Well #2 was developed in 1969; it is 18 inches in diameter and is 52 feet deep. Well # 2 produces about 1150 gallons per minute. Well #3 was developed in 1990 and is also 18 inches in diameter and is 60 feet deep. Well #3 produces about 750 gallons per minute. Both wells are located in the North Central area of the Village at the end of North Richfield Street. The water is chlorinated with a sodium hypochlorite solution as it is pumped from the wells to the distribution system, water that is not consumed by our customers is stored in a 500,000 gallon concrete storage tank located off Burns Avenue in the Village of Mohawk

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 from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The **Village of Mohawk** routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We test your drinking water for 13 inorganic compounds, nitrate, 42 synthetic organic compounds, and 52 volatile organic compounds. In addition we test for coliform bacteria three times a month and chlorine residual daily. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water.

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)**.

TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	No	All Of 1998	< 1		0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Sulfate	No	10/98	Well#2-50.0 Well#3-66.0	ppm			
Nickel	No	10/98	Well#2-0.010 Well#3-0.010	ppm			
10. Barium	No	10/98	Well#2-0.213 Well#3-0.207	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	No	10/97	.05*	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	No	10/97	.001#	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	10/97	Well#2-2.54 Well#3-2.43	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Notes:

* 0 site(s) out of 10 above the Action Level for Copper.

0 site(s) out of 10 above the Action Level for Lead.

Definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) 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.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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.

Microbiological Contaminants:

(1) Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Inorganic Contaminants:

(10) Barium. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

(14) Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

(17) Lead. 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.

(19) Nitrate. 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. could have problems with their nervous system or blood, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What does this information mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Is our water safe for everyone?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations it should be noted that 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from **the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

System Improvements

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

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 all of 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 at **(315) 866-4170**.