

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010
Pleasant Valley Infirmary
4573 State Route 40, Argyle, New York 12809
(Public Water Supply ID#5710494)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, we 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. 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 Donald Goff, Head Maintenance Mechanic at Pleasant Valley at 518-638-8274, extension 228.

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 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 system serves approximately 150 residents, about 75 staff and from 20 to 75 visitors daily. Our water source is groundwater derived from two drilled wells (designated as Well #2 and Well #3) which are each approximately 500 feet deep. The wells are located on the immediate property on the south side of the building. The water enters the building, flows through two water softeners and then is injected with chlorine prior to flowing through a 1,000-gallon storage tank where the required contact time is met for chlorination prior to distribution.

It should be noted that there is a third well on the facility grounds and in previous reports is designated as Well #1. This well will not be included in this report because the State Health Department has not approved this well for human consumption since the year 2001.

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 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 and petroleum product contamination. These ratings are primarily due to the close proximity of the wells to a septic system and an underground storage tank in the assessment area. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbial contaminants, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to our consumers meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. Also since this study was completed the underground storage tank that we were previous monitoring has been removed and in its place two 8000 gallons above ground storage tanks for heating oil, placed in adequate size dikes are relative close to well # 2. These tanks, dikes, and underground piping to the building are monitor daily to insure their integrity. Public notification is required if regulated contaminants are found in our water, and increased monitoring may result.

The 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, including a map of the assessment area, 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 coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, principal organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds and radiologicals. 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. The table below includes compounds

that have been detected in our water system.

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 New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at (518) 793-3893.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Compounds							
Barium	No	4/21/10	0.120 (W1 2) 0.21 (W1 3)	mg/l	2	2 = MCL	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	2/3/11	0.45 (W1 2) ND (W1 3)	mg/l	10	10 = MCL	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	6/29/2010 12/15/10	3 ¹ 2-12 ² 5 ¹ <1-12 ²	ug/l	0	15 = AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No Yes	6/29/2010 12/15/10	.760 ¹ 0.155-0.923 2.87 ¹ 0.252-3.2 ²	mg/l	1.3	1.3 = AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Disinfection By-Products							
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/18/10 8/26/10	2.4 5.8	ug/l	N/A	60 = MCL	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/18/10 8/26/10	6.0 5.9	ug/l	N/A	80 = MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Radiologicals							
Gross Beta	No	2/3/09 5/12/09	2.6 (W1 2) 1.8 (W1 2)	pCi/L	0	50 = MCL	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Radium 228 ³	No	12/11/08 9/23/08	0.6 (W1 3) 1.9 (W1 3)	pCi/L	0	5 = MCL	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	No	09/23/08 10/6/08	0.01 (W1 3) 0.01 (W1 2)	pCi/L	0	5 = MCL	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha ⁴	No	09/23/08	1.8 (WL3)	pCi/L	0	15 = MCL	Erosion of natural deposits

Notes:

- 1 - During 2010, ten samples were collected and analyzed for lead and copper in the first half of the year and ten samples were collected in the second half of the year. The number presented represents the 90% levels detected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The action level for copper was exceeded at 2 of the 10 sites tested in the second half of the year in the month of December.
- 2 - These numbers represent the range of lead and copper levels detected from the 10 sites tested during each monitoring period.
- 3 - Radium 228 was not detected in Well 2 in samples collected in 2/09, 5/09 and 11/09.
- 4 - Gross Alpha was not detected in Well 2 in samples collected in 2/09 and 5/09.

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.
- 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)

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

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

N/A: Not applicable

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

During 2010, the action level for copper was exceeded in 2 of the 20 samples collected. As a result of this exceedance we are required to include the following health effects information on 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."

INFORMATION ON LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2010, our system had the following violations from the New York State of health.

- We are required to submit a monthly operation report to the local Department of Health by the 10th of month following the reported period. During 2010 the monthly reports for November, September, June, March, and February were submitted to the department but was not in the time allowed.
- Also during the 2010 year we failed to collect and submit samples for nitrates samples for the two wells we used to furnish water to the facility.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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?

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 is 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:

- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Report leaky faucets to the person in charge. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Report toilets if water is continually running. 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you 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 any questions.

<http://www.co.washington.ny.us>