

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010***  
***Village of Greene***  
***PO Box 207***  
***Greene, New York 13778***  
***(Public Water Supply ID# NY0801740)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Village of Greene Water Department, 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 **Robert Nowalk, Superintendent of Public Works, 607-656-8358**. 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 second Monday of each month, 7 pm in the Village Hall, 49 Genesee Street, Greene, New York.

## **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.

Our water system serves approximately 1800 customers through 649 service connections. Our water source is three drilled, groundwater wells that are all approximately 150 ft deep. The wells are located within the village limits on parcels of land owned by the Village. The water is treated with gas chlorine for disinfection prior to distribution.

## **NYSDOH SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The NYS DOH has 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 organic/inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, it should be noted that all 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 from natural sources. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

## 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, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids. 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 Chenango County Health Department at (707-337-1673).

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform/E. Coli	No	Monthly x2	Neg.	Pos./Neg.	Any Positive	Any Positive	Naturally present in the environment; human and animal fecal contamination.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate Well #1	No	11/29/10	2.8	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate Well #2	No	11/29/10	1.78	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate Well #3	No	11/29/10	.61	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (1)	No	9/30/10	.0068	Mg/L	AL=0.015	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (1)	No	9/30/10	0.973	Mg/L	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Disinfection By-products</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (2) (mono-, di, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di- bromoacetic acid)	No	8/25/10	.001800	Mg/L	.06		By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalo-Methanes (2) (TTHMs chloroform, bromo-dichloro-methane, and bromoform)	No	8/25/10	.006965	Mg/L	.08		By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

(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. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value of .00681 mg/l for lead and .0973 mg/l for copper. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

(2) The levels of total trihalomethanes & haloacetic acids are well below the levels indicated as maximum allowable levels. These contaminants are very often found in water supplies that provide chlorination disinfection. Town Districts 2 and 3 will be tested in 2011.

### **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).

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

## **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.

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

During 2010, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking 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. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. 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 questions.