

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Town of Ballston - Public Water Supply ID# NY4505658
P.O. Box 50, Burnt Hills, NY 12027-0050
Email: jwhalen@townofballstonny.org;
www.townofballstonny.org

INTRODUCTION

To comply with New York State regulations, the Town of Ballston is issuing this report to describe 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. 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 Joseph Whalen, Town of Ballston Water Superintendent at (518) 885-7660 Ext. 24 or Mr. Roger Harrison, Town of Glenville Plant Operator at (518) 382-1410 (rharrison@townofglenville.org) or Thomas Coppola, Commissioner of Public Works at (518) 382-1406. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Town of Ballston Municipal Center, 323 Charlton Road.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Town of Ballston purchases drinking water from the Town of Glenville. The Town of Glenville's water system consists of four drilled wells in the Great Flats Aquifer just west of the Village of Scotia, between Route 5 and the Mohawk River. The aquifer is an extensive bed of sands and gravel underlying the Mohawk River channel. Prior to distribution the Glenville well water is pumped into a clear well where it is given disinfecting treatment with chlorine before being pumped into the transmission and distribution mains. A chlorine residual of 0.2 is maintained throughout the distribution system as required by New York State Department of Health Regulations as continuing insurance against any bacterial growth occurring within the system.

During 2009, the Town of Ballston ter District provided water service to approximately 5,826 people through 1,942 service connections. During 2009 we purchased 107,104,700 gallons of water from the Town of Glenville. The largest single daily average was 511,700 gallons on July 29, 2009. The daily average for all of 2009 was 293,438 gallons. The entire distribution system has been designed to provide the fire flows required by the Insurance Services Organization for recognition as acceptable for "protected" fire insurance rates. All water services and customers are metered in the town. During 2009, our system and the Glenville system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

Current water rates for the Town of Ballston are \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum annual charge of \$15.00 Additional information regarding other charges such as tapping fees can be found on our Web Page or by calling the Town of Ballston Water Department at 518-885-7660 Ext. 24. Metered usage charges pay for the water system operation and maintenance. Water system capital costs are raised through additional ad valorem charges, which vary with age of the particular extension which brought water service to the property, and the particular capital recovery charge system adopted for that extension at the time. All customers also share in ad valorem tax charges for system capital improvements benefiting everyone, which typically will amount to a few cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this Town of Glenville's drinking water sources. The source water assessment was 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. See section "Are there contaminants in the 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 rated the Glenville wells as having an elevated susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the fact that wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates the wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that the water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. The 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 can be obtained by contacting the Town of Glenville.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled 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), Glens Falls District Office at 793-3893.

Town of Ballston staff are responsible for testing the water in the distribution system. The water is tested monthly for Total Coliform bacteria (5 samples per month), once every 3 years for lead and copper and disinfection byproducts and once every 9 years for asbestos. Source water monitoring is completed by the Town of Glenville. The Town of Glenville tests the source water for inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, nitrate, and radiologicals. The tables presented below summarize the test results for your drinking water. The State allows some contaminants to be tested less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

Table of Detected Contaminants Source Water Samples Collected By The Town of Glenville						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Detected Level	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Sources of Contamination
Inorganics						
Barium	No	8/11/09	0.024 mg/l	2	2.0 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	8/11/09	0.033 mg/l	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	No	8/11/09	0.344 mg/l	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from septic tank, sewage
Chromium	No	8/11/09	3.6 ug/l	N/A	100 (MCL)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	No	8/11/09	0.002 mg/l	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel/metal factories
Radiologicals						
Radium 226	No	11/15/01	0.1 pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	No	11/15/01	0.7 pCi/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	11/15/01	1.9 pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits

Table of Detected Contaminants Distribution System Samples Collected by the Town of Ballston						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Detected Level	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Sources of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts						
Total Trihalo-methanes	No	08/05/08	10 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
Inorganics						
Lead	No	2008	2.7 ¹ ug/l ND-3.8 ²	N/A	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	2008	0.126 ¹ ND-0.197 ² mg/l	N/A	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.

Notes:

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 21 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 the third highest sample result. Lead and copper were not detected above their Action Levels in any of the 21 sites tested.

2 - The levels presented represent the range of the 21 samples.

Definitions:

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

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 are no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (µg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

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

N/A: Not applicable.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables above, neither our system nor the Town of Glenville's water system exceeded any contaminant MCL levels in 2009. 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 2009, the Town of Ballston received a violation for failure to include all of the required information in the 2008 Annual Water Quality Report. In order to ensure compliance in 2009, the NYSDOH has reviewed and approved our 2009 report.

The Town of Glenville is required to collect a Principal Organic Compounds sample once a year. During 2009, the Town failed to collect the required sample. Therefore, we are unable to report the presence or absence of Principal Organic Compounds in the source water for 2009. It should be noted that Principal Organic Compounds were not detected in the sample that the Town collected in 2008.

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 1-800-426-4791.

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 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 up 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.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office at (518)885-8502 Ext. 24

**Town of Ballston
Water Department
P.O. Box 50
Burnt Hills, NY 12027-0050**

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURNT HILLS, NY
PERMIT NO. 26

|||||
«LastName» «First_Name»
«Number» «Street»
«City» «State» «PostalCode»

