

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014
Town of Stillwater, New York
881 Hudson Ave., Stillwater, New York 12170
(Public Water Supply ID# 4517534, 4530198, 4530040 & NY4530219)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Stillwater annually issues 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. As you are aware, the Town consolidated former Water District #1, #3, and #4 into Water District #6 in 2013. The consolidation was undertaken in preparation of the ongoing project to connect these districts to a new supply source, the Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA). Water District #5 was not a part of this district consolidation. Last year, we conducted tests for Total Coliform bacteria, lead and copper (districts #1 and #5 only) and disinfection byproducts. The former Water Districts #1, and #4, as well as Water District #5 each had disinfection byproducts at a level higher than the State allows. The former Water District #1 also exceeded the Action Level for lead in drinking water. The Town is currently investigating methods to reduce disinfection byproduct within its system. 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 Mark Minick, Superintendent of Highways, Town of Stillwater, 1 Lansing Road, Stillwater, New York 12170, Phone: (518) 664-4611. 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 first and third Thursday evenings of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Government Complex, located at 881 Hudson Ave., Stillwater, NY 12170.

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.

TOWN OF STILLWATER WATER DISTRICT #6

As previously indicated, the Town created Water District #6 in 2013 by consolidating former Water Districts #1, #3, and #4. Water District #6 was created in preparation of the district being supplied by the Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA) following the completion of the ongoing water system connection project. Until the connection to the new supply is complete, drinking water information will be provided for each former water district as shown below.

TOWN OF STILLWATER FORMER WATER DISTRICT #1

The Town of Stillwater Water District #1 does not have its own supply of raw water or a water treatment facility. Therefore, the Town is a secondary water purveyor, receiving drinking water through one of two inter-municipal system connections with adjacent municipalities. The primary supply for Water District #1 is the interconnection with the Village of Stillwater water system. An interconnection also exists with the City of Mechanicville system, however, the capacity of the City of Mechanicville system is reported to be limited and the Town typically does not utilize this connection.

The Town of Stillwater Water District #1 usually purchases its supply of drinking water from the Village of Stillwater. The Village completed an improvements project to connect its distribution system to the Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA) system in 2012 and currently receives water from that supply. The Town and Village have an agreement whereby the Water District #1 agrees to purchase water from the Village for domestic and commercial use as long as the Village has adequate supply.

FORMER DISTRICT #1 FACTS AND FIGURES

The Town of Stillwater Water District #1 system serves approximately 1,566 customers through 522 service connections. In 2014, Water District #1 customers purchased a total of 30,610,900 gallons. The daily average amount of water used by Water District #1 customers in 2014 was approximately 83,900 gallons per day (GPD). The maximum day production of 169,000 gallons occurred on November 11, 2014. In 2014, water customers within the District #1 paid \$8.95 per thousand gallons of water.

As identified above, the water source for the Village of Stillwater is the SCWA system. As of the date of this publication, the Village is utilizing the SCWA as its sole water source.

TOWN OF STILLWATER FORMER WATER DISTRICTS #3 AND #4

The Town of Stillwater Water Districts #3 and #4 do not have their own supply of raw water or a water treatment facility. Therefore, the Town is a secondary water purveyor, purchasing its regular supply of drinking water from the City of Mechanicville.

The City of Mechanicville operates a surface water filtration plant, which is fed by two reservoirs. The Mechanicville Reservoir, located in the Luther Woods, is the primary source of raw water. The Terminal Reservoir, located approximately one mile from the Water Treatment Plant, is the secondary raw water source. The City's Water Treatment Plant is a conventional treatment facility utilizing the processes of coagulation using poly-aluminum chloride; sedimentation; rapid sand filtration; and post chlorination.

FORMER DISTRICTS #3 AND #4 FACTS AND FIGURES

The Town of Stillwater Water Districts #3 and #4 serve approximately 950 customers through approximately 325 service connections. Usage for Water District #3 and Water District #4 is measured in combination and is further described below.

In 2014, the Water Districts purchased a total of 17,273,100 gallons. The daily average amount of water used by the Water Districts' customers in 2014 was approximately 47,300 gallons per day (GPD). The maximum day production of 101,000 gallons occurred on July 21, 2014. In 2014, water customers within the Water Districts #3 and #4 paid \$8.56 per thousand gallons of water.

TOWN OF STILLWATER WATER DISTRICT #5

The Town of Stillwater Water District #5 does not have its own supply of raw water or a water treatment facility. Therefore, the Town is a secondary water purveyor, purchases its regular supply of drinking water from the Village of Stillwater.

DISTRICT #5 FACTS AND FIGURES

The Town of Stillwater Water District #5 system serves approximately 40 customers through 12 service connections. In 2014, Water District #5 customers purchased a total of 594,015 gallons. The daily average amount of water used by Water District #5 customers in 2014 was approximately 1,627 gallons per day (GPD). In 2014, water customers within Water District #5 paid \$8.95 per thousand gallons of water.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

Stillwater Water District staff is responsible for testing the water in the distribution system. The water is tested for Total Coliform bacteria, lead and copper and disinfection byproducts and once every 9 years for asbestos. Source water monitoring is completed by the Saratoga County Water Authority and the City of Mechanicville. The water sources are tested for inorganic compounds, volatile and semi volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, PCBs, nitrate, and radiologicals. The tables presented below summarize the test results from the distribution systems. The Table of Detected Contaminants for the Village of Stillwater and the City of Mechanicville are also included below.

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 (518) 793-3893.

Table of Detected Contaminants Stillwater WD #1 - NY4517534							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	N/A	none	N/A	0	Systems with less than 40 samples per month-two or more samples positive for Total Coliform represents an MCL violation	Naturally present in the environment.
Stage 1 Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	Yes	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th Quarter-2014	110.50 ¹ 47.7-96.4 ¹	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Yes	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th Quarter-2014	66 ¹ 41-76 ¹	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Compounds							
Lead	Yes	<u>5/14/2014</u> <u>10/22/14</u>	54 ² (ND-213) 22 ² (ND-38)	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	<u>5/14/2014</u> <u>10/22/14</u>	0.297 ² (ND-0.451) 0.260 ² (ND-0.278)	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; and erosion of natural deposits.

- Compliance for TTHM and HAA5 MCLs is based on a running annual arithmetic average, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples. For example, the 1st Quarter 2014 Running Annual Average was calculated using data collected during the 1st Quarter 2014, the 4th Quarter 2013, the 3rd Quarter 2013, and the 2nd Quarter 2013. During 2014, the highest running annual average for HAA5s occurred during the 2nd Quarter of 2014 and the highest running annual average for TTHMs occurred during the 1st Quarter of 2014 (66 ug/l for HAA5s and 110.50 ug/l for TTHMs). The running annual average for TTHMs exceeded the MCL during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarters of 2014. The running annual average for HAA5 exceeded the MCL during the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2014. The levels presented are the range of Stage 1 TTHM and HAA5 sample results from 2014.
- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 1 to 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 lead copper values detected at your water system. During May and October 2014, 20 samples were collected for lead and copper analysis. Copper was not detected above the action level at any of the sites tested during the sampling round, however; lead was detected above the action level during both testing periods in 2014. A violation was issued by the New York State Department of Health for the action level exceedance.

Table of Detected Contaminants Stillwater WD #3 - NY4530198							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date(s) of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	N/A	none	N/A	0	Systems with less than 40 samples per month-two or more samples positive for	Naturally present in the environment.
Disinfection Byproducts³							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Quarter-2014	58.1 ¹ 35.3-84.2 ²	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Quarter-2014	55.25 ¹ 31.9-89 ²	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

- Compliance for TTHM and HAA5 MCLs is based on a running annual arithmetic average, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples. For example, the 1st Quarter 2014 Running Annual Average was calculated using data collected during the 1st Quarter 2014, the 4th Quarter 2013, the 3rd Quarter 2013, and the 2nd Quarter 2013. During 2014, the highest running annual average for HAA5s occurred during the 3rd Quarter of 2014 and the highest running annual average for TTHMs occurred during the 3rd Quarter of 2014 (55.25 ug/l for HAA5s and 58.1 ug/l for TTHMs). The running annual averages for TTHMs and HAA5s did not exceed the MCL during 2014.
- The levels presented are the range of TTHM and HAA5 sample results collected during 2014.

Table of Detected Contaminants Stillwater WD #4 - 4530040							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	N/A	none	N/A	0	Systems with less than 40 samples per month-two or	Naturally present in the environment.
Disinfection Byproducts							
TTHMs	No	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th Quarter-2014	68.95 ¹ 41.3-96.9 ²	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5s	No	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th Quarter-2014	50.38 ¹ 18.1-89 ²	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

- Compliance for TTHM and HAA5 MCLs is based on a running annual arithmetic average, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples. For example, the 1st Quarter 2014 Running Annual Average was calculated using data collected during the 1st Quarter 2014, the 4th Quarter 2013, the 3rd Quarter 2013, and the 2nd Quarter 2013. During 2014, the highest running annual average for TTHMs occurred during the 3rd Quarter of 2014 and HAA5s occurred during the 3rd Quarter of 2014 (68.95 ug/l for TTHMs and 50.38 ug/l for HAA5s). The running annual averages for TTHMs and HAA5s did not exceed the MCLs during 2014.
- The levels presented are the range of TTHM and HAA5 sample results collected during 2014.

Table of Detected Contaminants Stillwater WD #5 - NY4530219							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	N/A	none	N/A	0	Systems with less than 40 samples per month-two or more samples positive for Total Coliform represents an MCL violation	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Compounds							
Copper	No	5/14/14 10/22/14	0.238 ¹ 0.089-0.259 ² 0.511 ¹ 0.097-0.753 ²	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; and erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	5/14/14 10/22/14	0 ¹ ND-ND ² 0 ¹ ND-ND ²	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts							
TTHMs	Yes	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Quarter-2014	114.10 ³ 36.5-86.4 ⁴	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5s	No	Quarterly 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Quarter-2014	59.75 ³ 32.7-56 ⁴	ug/L	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

1. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. During May and October 2014, 5 samples were collected for lead and copper analysis. The 90th percentile value, which is presented above, was the average of the two highest sample results. Lead and copper were not detected above the action level at any of the sites tested during the May or October sampling rounds.
2. The levels presented are the range of the samples collected.
3. Compliance for TTHM and HAA5 MCLs is based on a running annual arithmetic average, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples. For example, the 1st Quarter 2014 Running Annual Average was calculated using data collected during the 1st Quarter 2014, the 4th Quarter 2013, the 3rd Quarter 2013, and the 2nd Quarter 2013. During 2014, the highest running annual average for TTHMs occurred during the 1st Quarter of 2014 and HAA5s occurred during the 1st Quarter of 2014 (114.10 ug/l for TTHMs and 59.75 ug/l for HAA5s). The running annual average for TTHMs exceeded the MCL during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarters of 2014. The running annual average for HAA5s did not exceed the MCL in 2014.
4. The levels presented are the range of TTHM and HAA5 sample results collected during 2014.

Table of Detected Contaminants Saratoga County Water Authority							
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 Bacteria	No	N/A	None	N/A	0	Systems with less than 40 samples per month – two or more samples positive for Total Coliform represents an MCL violation	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (Highest Result) Entry Point	No	2/6/14(0800)	0.49	NTU	N/A	TT-1.0	Soil Run Off
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	No	Raw Average Treated Average	3.73 mg/l 1 mg/l	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic compounds							
Nitrate	No	2/26/2014	0.23	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	No	1/22/2013	12	ug/l	N/A	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Sodium	No	1/22/2013	8.44	mg/l	N/A	270	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Zinc	No	1/22/2013	21	ug/l	N/A	5000	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Chloride	No	1/22/2013	10.8	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sulfate	No	1/22/2013	3.8	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
Barium	No	2/26/14	7.8	ug/l	2	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

CITY OF MECHANICVILLE TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS
Public Water Supply Identification Number NY4500166

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (sample from 10/16/14)	N	0.10 ¹	NTU	N/A	TT=1 NTU	Soil runoff
		100%			TT=95% samples < 0.3	
Inorganic Contaminants (samples from 5/15/14 unless otherwise noted)						
Barium	N	9.7	ppb	2000	2000	Naturally occurring
Chloride	N	23.9	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Copper (samples from 8/5/14-8/6/14)	N	0.30 ³	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Range of copper concentrations		0.02-0.41				
Lead (samples from 8/5/14-8/6/14)	N	3 ³	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Range of lead concentrations		ND-12				
Manganese	N	18	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Nickel	N	1	ppb	N/A	100	Discharge from steel/metal factories
pH	N	7.0	units		6.5-8.5	
Sodium ⁴	N	13.2	ppm	N/A	N/A	Geology; Road Salt
Sulfate	N	8.3	ppm	N/A	250	Geology
Disinfection Byproducts (Quarterly samples from 2/20/14, 5/15/14, 8/20/14 & 11/20/14)						
Stage 2 Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)(Average) ⁵	N	35.7	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Range of values for HAA5		7-67.5				
Stage 2 TTHM[Total Trihalomethanes](Average) ⁵	N	58.0	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Range of values for TTHM		26-99.8				
Chlorine Residual (average)	N	1.35	ppm	MRDLG	MRDL	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
range		0.91-2.54		N/A	4	
Total Organic Carbon⁷ (monthly samples from 2014)						
Raw Water	N	2.4-6.5				Organic material both natural and man made;
Treated Water		1.4-3.3	ppm	NA	TT	Organic pollutants, decaying vegetation.

FOOTNOTES-

1. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Level detected represents the highest level detected. Distribution system turbidity performed 5 times a week with 0.42 NTU being highest level detected and 0.20 NTU being the average level detected.
2. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 20 test sites. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested.
3. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 20 test sites. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested.
4. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets.
5. The average is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (RAA). The average shown is the highest LRAA for the 2 sites monitored in of 2014. The highest LRAA for the HAA5s and the TTHMs was in the 3rd quarter.
6. The Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR) requires monitoring of raw and finished water Total Organic Carbon (TOC). Depending on the raw water alkalinity value, proper water treatment should remove between 15% to 50% of the raw water TOC thus reducing the amount of disinfection byproducts produced.

Glossary

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

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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

90th Percentile Value- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - 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 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.

Locational Running Average (LRA): The LRA is calculated by taking the average of the four most recent samples collected at each individual site

N/A-Not applicable

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).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables, our system had several MCL violations, which means that our water exceeded a drinking water standard. Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) are a by-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. Some people who drink water containing HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are also a by-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. Some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The Town is currently investigating methods to reduce HAA5s and TTHMs in its distribution system.

It should also be noted that the action level (AL) for lead was exceeded in WD #1 during both the May and October samplings. Three (3) samples taken in May and five (5) samples taken in October exceeded the AL of 15.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2014, Stillwater WDs #1 and #5 violated the level of disinfection byproducts allowed by the State in the system and WD #1 exceeded the Action Level for lead in drinking water. As previously indicated, the Town is currently investigating methods to reduce the disinfection byproducts and lead in its distribution system.

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. Chlorine reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. A few studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

The City of Mechanicville was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

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.

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. The Town of Stillwater is 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>.

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.
- ◆ 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. 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.