

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015*  
*Village of Cato*  
*2564 MILLARD AVENUE*  
*CATO, NY 13033*  
*(Public Water Supply ID# 0501715)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Village of Cato 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 has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 Jay Youngs Superintendent at 315-626-2397. 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 normally held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office, Mott Memorial Park, 2564 Millard Avenue, Cato.

## **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, 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 source is a groundwater source consisting of two wells. Schuler Well #2 is located off Rte. 34 just south of the Village. Well #10, 14, 15 is located on Bonta Bridge Road in Meridian and is owned and operated by Dudley Water Supply. The water is chlorinated by injection of sodium hypochlorite solution for disinfection purposes and is then pumped to the distribution system. Water not consumed by our customers is then stored in a One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand gallon new elevated storage tank located on East Mechanic Street in the Village of Cato. Our water system serves 580 people through 265 service connections.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

*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 SECTION "IS THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?" FOR A LIST OF THE CONTAMINANTS THAT HAVE BEEN DETECTED. THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS PROVIDE RESOURCE MANAGERS WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PROTECTING SOURCE WATERS INTO THE FUTURE.*

*OUR WELL #1 SOURCE IS THE CATO WELL WHICH IS A SINGLE DRILLED WELL. THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT HAS RATED THIS WELL AS HAVING NO OR LOW SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ANY CONTAMINATION. NO SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION WERE IDENTIFIED. THE WELL DRAWS FROM AN UNCONFINED AQUIFER AND THE HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY IS UNKNOWN. PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR WATER IS DISINFECTED TO ENSURE THAT THE FINISHED WATER DELIVERED INTO YOUR HOME MEETS THE NEW YORK STATE'S DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION.*

*OUR WELL #2 SOURCE IS FROM DUDLEY WATER SUPPLY, WHICH IS DERIVED FROM 4 DRILLED WELLS. THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT HAS RATED THESE WELLS AS HAVING A MEDIUM-HIGH SUSCEPTIBILITY TO MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS. THESE RATINGS ARE DUE PRIMARILY TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF ANIMAL PASTURES IN RELATION TO THE WELLS. IN ADDITION, THE WELLS DRAW FROM AN UNCONFINED AQUIFER WITH UNKNOWN HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY. PLEASE NOTE THAT, WHILE THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT RATES OUR WELL AS BEING SUSCEPTIBLE TO MICROBIALS, OUR WATER IS DISINFECTED TO ENSURE THAT THE FINISHED WATER DELIVERED INTO YOUR HOME MEETS THE NEW YORK STATE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION.*

*COUNTY AND STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS 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 IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY CALLING THE CAYUGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT 315-253-1405.*

### **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, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. 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 Cayuga County Health Department at (315-253-1405).

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

| Contaminant                                       | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample     | Level Detected (Average) (Range)  | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|---|------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>                     |                  |                    |   |                  |      |                                  |  |
| <b>Barium</b>                                     | No               | 9/2015<br>05/13    | Well#1-0.053<br>Well#2-0.077  | ppm              | 2.0  | 2.0                              | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits                             |
| <b>Copper</b>                                     | No               | 08/25/15<br>07/14  | Well#1-0.55 <sup>1</sup><br>Range 0.09-0.72<br>Well#2-0.155 <sup>2</sup><br>Range ND-0.17 | ppm              | 1.3  | AL=1.3                           | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives                 |
| <b>Lead</b>                                       | No               | 08/25/15<br>07/14  | Well #1-2 <sup>3</sup><br>Range ND-4<br>Well#2-ND   | ppb              | 0    | AL=15                            | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits   |
| <b>Nitrate (as Nitrogen)</b>                      | No               | 12/1/15<br>7/15/15 | Well#1-0.26<br>Well#2-1.25  | ppm              | 10   | 10                               | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits                            |
| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>              |                  |                    |   |                  |      |                                  |  |
| <b>Methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE)<sup>4</sup></b> | No               | 6/29/15            | 1.0   | ppb              | N/A  | 10                               | Releases from gasoline storage tanks. MTBE is an octane enhancer in unleaded gasoline. Atmospheric disposition.        |
| <b>M &amp; P-Xylene<sup>4</sup></b>               | No               | 6/29/15            | 1.0   | ppb              | N/A  | 10                               | Leaks from gasoline tanks; Discharge from petroleum factories. Leaching of solvent from lining of potable water tanks. |
| <b>TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)</b>               | No               | 08/14<br>08/14     | Well#1-11.4-34.6<br>Range avg.23.0<br>Well #2-18.7  | ppb              | 0    | 80                               | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| <b>HAAS Haloacetic Acids</b>                      | No               | 08/14<br>08/14     | Well#1 avg.2.00<br>Range - 1.00,2.00<br>Well#2-ND<br>3                                    | ppb              | 0    | 60                               | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| <b>Methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE)</b>             | No               | 8/12/15            | Well #2-1.3   | ppb              | N/A  | 10                               | Releases from gasoline storage tanks. MTBE is an octane enhancer in unleaded gasoline. Atmospheric disposition.        |

**Notes:**

Well#1-Village of Cato

Well#2-Dudley Water Supply

**Footnotes:**

- 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 the Village of Cato water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value (0.55 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the five samples collected. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 5 sites tested by Dudley Water Supply.
- 3- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
- 4-These contaminants are suspected as being caused by the epoxy used on the new storage tank. Continuing efforts to resolve this matter are ongoing. Until resolved, quarterly monitoring will continue to occur. The MCL was not exceeded for any of the Contaminants.

**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 Contaminant Level Goal (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.

**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. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Village of Cato 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During August of 2015, we did not test for disinfection byproducts and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of drinking water during that time. This situation is being resolved as we are sampling for disinfection byproducts in August of 2016. (Disinfection byproducts can only be sampled for in August.)

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

*Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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?**

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 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. 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, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions (315-626-2397).