

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2007
Standish Water District
Standish Road, Standish NY 12952
(Public Water Supply ID# NY0900242)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Standish Water District, 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 Martha Chase at 735-4666 or Joe Gerardi, Town Supervisor at 293-6666. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

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 110 people through 54 service connections. Our water source in Standish is a 280 foot deep well located off the Standish Road. The water is pumped by a 10hp submersible pump to a 3,000-gallon storage tank. Prior to distribution the water is treated with liquid sodium hypochlorite. Most main lines are ductile iron; others are 2" PVC. The operating pressure ranges from 26psi to 45psi.

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, gross alpha particle activity, nitrate, lead and copper, haloacetic acids primary inorganic compounds, total trihalomethanes, synthetic organic compounds, and principal organic compounds. The table presented on the following page 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 Clinton County Health Department at (518) 565-4870. Please see the attached Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Summary prepared by the New York State Department of Health for additional information.

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
Nitrate	No	12/26/07	0.16	Mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	6/15/05	0.2	Mg/l	N/A	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	6/15/05	0.026	Mg/l	2	MCL=2	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from drilling waste
Copper (1)	No	9/19/07	90 th =0.237 Range- 0.026 to 0.249	Mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (2)	No	9/19/07	90 th =1.5 Range- BRL to 2	Ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No	9/18/06	2.3	Ug/l	0	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms

Notes:

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

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.

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

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

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.

Below Reportable Limit (BRL): The concentration of contaminant tested for was below detectable limits.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had a violation for Total Coliform. As you were notified at the time, a Boil Water order was issued, and when follow up sampling revealed no contamination the order was lifted. We have learned through our testing that some other 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?

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular

monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2006, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

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).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP) SUMMARY FOR AWQR

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 "Are 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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from a drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a high susceptibility to enteric viruses and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a septic system and a landfill in relation to the well. The well was also rated as having a medium-high susceptibility to enteric bacteria, halogenated solvents, cations/anions (salts), herbicides/pesticides, metals, petroleum products, protozoa and other industrial organics. These ratings were given because the well draws from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. 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. A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted.

CLOSING

Not wasting water is a good thing, and it saves energy costs. 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.