

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010
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 Jim Facticeau, 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	2/1/10	0.22	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	4/21/08	0.2	mg/l	N/A	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	4/21/08	0.024	mg/l	2	MCL=2	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from drilling waste
Copper (1)	No	9/19/10	90 th =0.07 Range- ND to 0.14	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha Particle activity	No	3/17/08	1.1	pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta particles	No	3/17/08	1.7	pCi/l	0	50-see footnote 3	Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions.
Radium-226	No	4/25/09	0.01	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes	NO	10/13/06	2.3	µg/l	80	80	By product of disinfection
Total coliform bacteria (2)	No	10/14/10	Positive	N/A	Neg.	MCL= more than one positive in a month	Naturally present in environment

Notes:

1 – The level presented (0.07) 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 the average of the fourth and fifth highest results. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2- Follow up water samples were collected as required and all tested negative for Total Coliform Bacteria.

3- The State considers 50pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

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.

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

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 noted in the above table, our system had no MCL violations and your drinking water is safe. When the total coliform test produced a positive result we followed up with samples that were collected immediately and these follow-up tests revealed no contamination.

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. Standish Water district 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 a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2010, our system was issued a violation in June when the reagent for testing chlorine residual was found to be expired.

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.

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

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.