

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2018
Athens Village Water System
2 First Street, Athens, NY 12015
(Public Water Supply ID#1900024)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Village of Athens Water, 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, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected one of those contaminants, and only found one of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we rectified the problem by altering the chemical injection and monitoring point. 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 Seth Mann, Operator, at (518) 945-1805. 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.

The source of our water is Hollister Lake located on Schoharie Turnpike in the Town of Athens. During 2018, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Water is pumped to the treatment plant and the water treatment consists of the following processes which begin in the clarifier: 1) coagulation using an alum based product which causes large and small particles to stick together forming what is termed a "floc", these particles are then trapped and removed from the clarifier; 2) filtration then occurs as the water travels through layers of media beds of sand and charcoal; 3) new ultraviolet light technology along with chlorination is used to kill harmful bacteria and other organisms 4) water is then polished in carbon filter tanks and sent to a storage tank where a corrosion inhibitor is added to protect the distribution system piping and household plumbing fixtures from corrosion. The storage capacity at the treatment plant is 100,000 gallons of treated water and a 750,000 gallon storage tank in the Village gives us a combined total storage capacity of 850,000 gallons of water to meet consumer demand and to provide adequate fire protection.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, 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 drinking water sources.

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

As mentioned before, our water is derived from a reservoir. The source water assessment found no noteworthy risks to drinking water quality. While some potential contaminant sources were found, they are associated with the drinking water treatment plant and are therefore unlikely sources of contamination. It should be noted that reservoirs in general are highly sensitive to phosphorus and microbial contaminants. While the source water assessment rates our reservoir as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, synthetic organic compounds, and radiologicals. 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, maybe 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 NYSDOH Oneonta District Office at (607) 432-3911.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Village provides water through 795 service connections to a population of approximately 1700 people. Our average daily demand is approximately 120,000 gallons per day.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Dates of Samples	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	9/2017	0.235 ¹ Range: 0.00786 – 0.540	mg/l	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	No	9/2017	6 ² Range: ND – 68.1	ug/l	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	6/2018	0.04	mg/l	MCL=10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	5/2018	0.0079	mg/l	MCL=2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	5/2018	0.3	mg/l	MCL=2.2	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	Yes	Quarterly	87.0 ³ Range: 51 – 99	ug/l	MCL=80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	No	Quarterly	59.6 ⁴ Range: 12.2 – 71.4	ug/l	MCL=60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
2,4-D 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic	No	6/2018	0.524	ug/l	MCL=50	N/A	Release to the environment by its application as a pesticide used to control broad leaf weeds in agriculture and for control of woody plants along roadsides, railways, and utility rights-of-way.
Dalapon	No	9/2018	1.7	ug/l	MCL=50	N/A	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.
Chloride	No	10/2016	38	mg/l	MCL=250	N/A	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Dates of Samples	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Odor	No	10/2016	2	Units	MCL=3	N/A	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges; natural sources.
Manganese	No	10/2016	20	ug/l	MCL=300	N/A	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Sodium	No	10/2016	24	mg/l	(see Health Effects) ⁴	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	No	10/2016	6	mg/l	MCL=250	N/A	Naturally occurring.

Zinc	No	10/2016	0.0106	mg/l	MCL=5	N/A	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
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Notes:

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, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value (0.235 mg/l) is the reported value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
2. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value (6 ug/l) is the reported value. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the sites tested.
3. The TTHM level reported (87.0 ug/l) is the highest locational running annual average calculated during 2018 and occurred during the 3rd calendar quarter (July 1 – September 30). The locational running annual average is the average of the four most recent quarterly samples from a specific sampling point.
4. The HAA level reported (59.6 ug/l) is the highest locational running annual average calculated during 2018 and occurred during the 1st calendar quarter (January 1 – March 31). The locational running annual average is the average of the four most recent quarterly samples from a specific sampling point.
5. Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

- 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 (ppm)
- Micrograms per liter (ug/L)**-Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (ppb)
- Action Level (AL)**-The concentrations 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. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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
- Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. During the 3rd calendar quarter (July 1 – September 30) we exceeded the MCL for TTHMs. This violation existed until the quarterly sample was collected in the 4th calendar quarter (October 1 – December 31). Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes 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. We have corrected this by replacing the carbon in the carbon filters used to treat the water.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water.

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. Athens Village Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but can not 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 the 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?

During 2018, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, Village of Athens monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at the target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2018 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.1 mg/l of the target level for 34% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

Do I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people maybe 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.
- 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 firefighting 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.

IMPROVEMENTS

The Village of Athens continues to make improvements on the existing water system.

- During the past year, a study was commissioned to develop an improved handling system for the by-products of the water filtration process. The planning process on that issue was completed.
- Upgrades of the electronic systems at the filtration plant are underway and in some cases completed. These upgrades will increase security at the plant and improve efficiency.
- During 2018 we also increased the flushing frequency in order to remove more of the mineral deposits that come to line the water distribution lines over time. Release of these deposits often occurs during sudden surges in water flow that are brought about by events such as extended use of the hydrants and breaks in the water distribution mains. Additional flushing is just one step that the Village is taking to reduce the intensity and frequency of these events.
- In the past, we received concerns and questions from the public about the taste and odor of the water. While our water is and always has been drinkable, those concerns took away from the aesthetics of the water. To address these issues, we have made adjustments to the chemical feed.
- Preventive measures also have been taken to avoid shutdowns of the water system, such as, a stand alone alarm system has been installed that is separate from the computer based alarm. This system acts as a back up.

Please call our office if you have any questions. We appreciate your feedback - positive or negative – about your experience at any time.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.