

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008

Village of Canajoharie

75 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Public Water Supply ID# 2800137)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the **Village of Canajoharie**, 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 never 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 **Jeff Swartz, Supt. of Water, at (518) 673-2007**. 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 held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Village Office Building, 75 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY 13317 at 7:00 PM.**

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 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 a population of 2300 through 868 metered service connections. Our water source is a surface water source consisting of several upland springs. The Hill, Gray, Sand, Young, and Plank Springs comprise the "springline" in addition to the Sprite Creek which feeds water to our reservoir. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 93 million gallons. The Lost Lake impoundment serves as an emergency water source. The water is filtered at our Slow Sand Filtration plant. The plant consists of three slow sand filters 44 feet by 132 feet each. Each filter has a flow-rate of 0.5 million gallons per day. The filters also provide us with 0.6 million gallons of useable water storage. After passing through the filters the finished water is disinfected by injection of a sodium hypochlorite solution. Water not consumed by our customers is stored at the Smith Street Reservoir, East Hill Tank, and Palatine Clearwell, providing us with 2.63 millions gallons of storage to meet consumer demand and to provide adequate fire protection.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The New York State Department of Health has evaluated this public water supply's (PWS) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

Our water is derived from several spring sources and a reservoir. Lost Lake is used as an emergency supply. Based on the analysis of available information for these spring sources, there are no water quality concerns found in the assessment area. No land cover water quality concerns, permitted discharges, or other discrete facilities were identified in the assessment area using GIS. It should be noted that springs in

general can be highly sensitive to petroleum products and solvents. An assessment of the reservoir and Lost Lake found no noteworthy risks to source water quality. It should be noted that reservoirs in general are highly sensitive to phosphorus and microbial contaminants.

Please note that our water is filtered and disinfected to ensure that 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, 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 New York State Department of Health – Herkimer District Office at (315) 866-6879.**

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (1)	No	Daily	(.20 / .28) 100% < 1.0	NTU	N/A	TT = 1.0	Soil Run-off
Inorganic Compounds							
Barium	No	3/06	.012	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	3/07	8.8	mg/l	N/A	(See health effects)	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	No	3/08	10	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally Occuring
Lead (3)	No	9/06	4 (ND-6)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2)	No	9/06	580 (9-670)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	3/07	10	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.

Fluoride	No	2/06	0.2	mg/l	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nickel	No	3/08	0.0013	mg/l	N/A	0.1	Naturally Occurring
Nitrate	No	3/08	0.3	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological							
Radium 228	No	4/08	0.55	pCi/L	5	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (4)	No	Avg. 2008	23.9 (9.0-51.3)	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of Drinking Water Chlorination.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (4)	No	Avg. 2008	26.4 (10.1-53.2)	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Chlorine Residual	No	Avg 2008	1.2-1.8 (.07-1.82)	Mg/l	N/A	4	By-product of Drinking Water Chlorination.

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 1/02/08 (.28 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 1.0 NTU.

2 – 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 was the 580 ug/l value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

4 – This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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 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.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system was in violation of applicable State drinking water reporting requirements as described below:

Failure to submit volatile organic compound (VOC) water sample results by the 10th day of the month following the compliance period 1/1/2008 to 12/31/2008.

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

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.

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 at (518) 673-2007.