



## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015***

**WOODHAVEN WATER DISTRICT**  
*Town of Clifton*  
*P.O. Box 684*  
*Cranberry Lake, NY 12927*  
*Public Water Supply ID# NY4405673*

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Woodhaven 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 Town Supervisor Charles Hooven at (315) 848-2915. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. Town Board meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings alternate between the Community Center in Cranberry Lake and the Town Barn in Newton Falls.

### **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 55 people through 30 service connections. Our water source is ground water drawn from a drilled well near NYS Hwy 3 and Woodhaven Drive in Star Lake. The water is chemically disinfected prior to distribution.



The NYS DOH has evaluated our Public Water Supply (PWS's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by 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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from a drilled well. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the well to a permitted discharge industrial / commercial facility that discharges wastewater into the environment, a low intensity residential area and a pasture. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer, which is a shallow aquifer that occurs immediately below the ground surface and has no overlying protective layer for protection from potential sources of contamination.

#### **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, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented 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, is 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 NYS Health Department Office in Canton at (315) 386-1040.



**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
<b>Haloacetic Acid (HAA5's)</b> (mono-,di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	NO	9/17/12	2.0	mcg/L	60	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)</b> (chloroform, Bromodichloromethane Dibromochloromethane And bromoform)	NO	9/17/12	10	mcg/L	80	80 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
<sup>(2)</sup> <b>Lead</b>	NO	9/24/15	0.001 <.0005 - .001	mcg/L	15	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<sup>(1)</sup> <b>Copper</b>	NO	9/24/15	0.8 0.09-0.90	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Barium</b>	NO	5/01/13	0.40	mg/L	2.0	2.0 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<sup>(3)</sup> <b>Sodium</b>	NO	10/27/15	34.4	mg/L			No designated Limit
<b>Nitrate</b>	NO	6/9/15	3.8	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of Natural deposits
<b>Chromium</b>	NO	9/27/11	.0025	mg/L	0.10	0.10 (MCL)	Discharge from steel & pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nickel</b>	NO	9/27/11	.0026	mg/L			
<b>Selenium</b>	NO	9/27/11	.0012	mg/L	0.05	0.05 (MCL)	Discharge from petroleum & metal refineries; discharge from mines



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**Notes:**

(1) - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the five 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 0.80 mg/l.

(2) - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the five samples collected.

(3) - 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:**

**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.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**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).

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.



## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

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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 Woodhaven Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household 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?

During 2015, our system was in compliance with 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).



## **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.



## STAR LAKE WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Star Lake Water District is undertaking a water treatment/distribution system improvement project for the Star Lake water system. Many components are original to the 1952 construction of the system and require upgrades to meet current standards and demands. The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) is providing technical services and Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L), has prepared a Preliminary Engineering Report (August 2013) and Map Plan & Report (May 2105) for the project.

This \$7.408 million dollar project is being financed by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), with a \$2 million dollar grant and the balance interest-free financing for a term of 30 years, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). NY State Senator Joseph Griffo contributed a DASNY State and Municipal Facilities (SAM) \$100,000 Grant for the project. We will continue to seek additional grants as they become available.

Grant and low interest loan funding criteria have minimum user cost obligation requirements. Residential yearly water rates for the Star Lake Water District are estimated to have a service charge of \$526.00 per year to meet these grant and low interest loan requirements. We are also currently working on an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) rate structure where metering and usage will determine final user fees.

The Engineers evaluated all aspects of the Star Lake Water System. The improvement project includes:

1) WATER SOURCE:

The project will search for a groundwater source, replacing our current surface water source. This will reduce long term costs and operating expenses. If groundwater location is not successful, we will return to a surface water source.

2) TREATMENT SYSTEM:

Current diatomaceous earth filtration system is deficient in meeting summer water demand. If groundwater source is developed, filtration is not required. If surface water source continues, upgrade filtration system to meet current and future water demands. All drinking water must be chemically disinfected prior to distribution.

3) STORAGE TANK:

Current 200,000 gallon steel storage tank is deficient. Cost analysis showed that installing a new storage tank is more cost effective than refurbishing our current tank.

4) DISTRIBUTION PIPING:

Replace as much deficient main line distribution piping as funding affords.

5) GOLF COURSE:

Explore elimination of golf course sprinkler system from drinking water system.

6) INTERCONNECTION:

The project includes interconnecting with the Town of Clifton's Woodhaven Water District. Star Lake Water District will contract to provide water to the Town of Clifton District. Clifton's District will share proportionally in the long-term debt repayment and operating / maintenance costs. Woodhaven Water District has approximately 55 EDUs. Star Lake has approximately 545 EDUs.

7) DISTRICT EXPANSION:

The District has been expanded to include the backside of the lake. This will loop the distribution system, improving water quality. This will also allow isolating smaller areas of the district when issues occur and possibly continuing service to critical users such as the Hospital and School. This will add approximately 25 users to the system.



## 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. Remember to notify the water department in plenty of time if you need your service turned on or off for the season. You also might consider turning the water valve off inside your home if you leave your home unattended for an extended period of time. Please call our office if you have questions.

For a full size report, please visit the town website "[townofcliftonny.org](http://townofcliftonny.org)" or stop and pick one up at the Clifton Town Offices.