

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009  
Cadyville Water District (NY0920775) and Woods Mills Water District (NY0930036)  
Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York  
Town of Schuyler Falls, Clinton County, New York*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations the Town of Plattsburgh annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. This is the report for the year 2009. 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 **the Water and Wastewater Utilities Department at 518-562-6890** or **the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town of Plattsburgh board meetings. The meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Our water source is groundwater drawn from two (2) wells. The wells are located in a gravel aquifer in the Gougeville Springs Road area. The well water is chlorinated and fluoridated prior to distribution. Safe well yield is currently rated at 70 thousand gallons per day.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 1,270 through 423 service connections. During 2009, the total water produced was 25,557,800 gallons, with approximately 93% of that billed directly to customers. The balance, approximately 1,835,082 gallons was used for fire fighting purposes, hydrant use and distribution system leaks. In 2009, an average family of 3 used approximately 21,000 gallons of water per quarter at a cost of \$1.23/1,000 gallons for a water bill of approximately \$25.84 per quarter.

## 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, fluoride, nitrate, lead and copper, primary inorganic chemicals, disinfection byproducts, synthetic organic chemicals, principal organic chemicals, radium -226 and -228, and total gross alpha particle activity. The table presented on the next 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 data, although representative, is more than a year old.

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.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might 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 Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870 or the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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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 the 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 two (2) drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to enteric viruses, halogenated solvents, and petroleum products. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of transportation routes and septic systems in the assessment area. The source water assessment has also rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, herbicides/pesticides, metals, nitrates, and other industrial organics. These ratings are given because the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells 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.

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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
Copper <sup>1</sup>	No	9/22/09	90 <sup>th</sup> =0.16 Range~ 0.026 to 0.17	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>2</sup>	No	9/22/09	90 <sup>th</sup> =BRL Range~ BRL to 1	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	Monthly	Avg. = 0.842 Range~0.4 to 1.2	mg/l	N/A	MCL=2.2	Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	12/14/09	0.99	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (Cadyville)	No	7/3/07	0.7	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalomethanes (Woods Mills)	No	7/3/07	2.9	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Iron	No	1/10/05	8	ug/l	N/A	MCL=300	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	1/10/05	3.75	mg/l	N/A	See note <sup>3</sup> below	Naturally occurring, road salt, water softeners
Barium	No	7/3/06	0.01	mg/l	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling waste, erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium –226 and –228	No	8/21/08 6/26/08	1.03	pCi/L	N/A	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits

**Notes:**

(1)– The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 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. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

(2) – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

(3) – Water containing more than 20mg/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.

**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 (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).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

Water from the Cadyville source has always been of exceptional quality. Water quality of all wells meets current Health Department Requirements. The Town collects one sample each in Cadyville and Woods Mills, for coliform and E. Coli analysis each month. 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 2009, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. Full test results are available at Town of Plattsburgh Office on 151 Banker Road.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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).

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 an optimal range from 0.8 to 1.2 mg/l. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2009, monitoring results showed fluoride levels well below the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

**WATER CONSERVATION**

Local Law No. 2 of Section 87.31 amended in 1991 provides steps for water conservation/drought procedures for emergency situations. The following recommendations can help us in conversation, which will reduce treatment and pumping costs:

- ✓ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair them promptly. Tiny leaks may use thousands of gallons of water each year;
- ✓ Use your automatic dishwasher with full loads;
- ✓ Use your automatic washing machine with full loads;
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary car washing, when doing so, do not leave water running; and
- ✓ Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator rather than running water until it is cold;
- ✓ The installation of a lawn irrigation system requires that an acceptable backflow device be installed and tested each year;
- ✓ *Abandoned, privately owned water wells should be properly sealed and capped to protect our underground water sources. The Clinton County Health Department can provide property owners with proper and safe abandonment measures.*

**SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Cadyville-Morrisonville Connection to include installation of one booster pump station and final system testing was completed in 2009.

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