

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010
Greater Plattsburgh Water District (Federal ID# NY0900220)
Southeast Beekmantown (includes Route 9/Spellman Rd) Water District (Federal ID# NY0930048)
Cliff Haven Water District (Federal ID# NY0900218) and Bluff Point Water District (Federal ID# NY0916542)
PARC Water District (Federal ID# NY0930177)
Town of Plattsburgh, New York
151 Banker Road
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Plattsburgh issues 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 **the Water and Wastewater Utilities Department at 518-562-6890**. 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?

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 source is groundwater drawn from five deep wells. The wells are located in a predominant sandstone, aquifer. Two wells are on Route 3 and the others are located off the Bullis Road. Safe well yield is currently rated at **1.5 to 2 million gallons per day**. As per Clinton County and New York State requirements, the Town of Plattsburgh water is disinfected with chlorine, and fluoride is added prior to distribution. Details can be found in the "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" section of this report.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system now serves approximately 10,000 residents in the Greater Plattsburgh, Bluff Point, Cliff Haven, Southeast Beekmantown and PARC districts. During 2010, the total amount of water produced was **477,469,000** gallons, with approximately 92% of that billed directly to the customers. The balance, approximately 8%, was used for fire fighting purposes, hydrant use and distribution system leaks. In 2010, an average family of 3 used approximately **20,000** gallons of water per quarter at a cost of **\$1.23/1,000** gallons for a water bill of approximately **\$32.00** 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, asbestos, fluoride, total gross alpha particle activity, primary inorganic chemicals, nitrate, lead and copper, principal organic chemicals, disinfection byproducts, synthetic organic chemicals, Radium 226 and Radium 228. 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 of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870.

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 five drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a permitted discharge facility (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include additional water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

TABLES OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PARAMETERS			
PARAMETERS		FLUORIDE (mg/L)	NITRATE (mg/L)
MCL		2.2	10
MCLG		-	10
Violation		No	No
Greater Plattsburgh	Date	Monthly	10/19/10
	Average	0.8	0.23
	Range	0.2 to 1.2	-
Likely Source of Contamination:		Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits

LEAD & COPPER RULE SAMPLING AT RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL WATER TAPS					
PARAMETERS		COPPER (mg/L) ¹		LEAD (ug/L) ²	
AL		1.3		15	
MCLG		1.3		-	
Violation		No		No	
Greater Plattsburgh	Date	6/1/10	9/27/10	6/1/10	9/27/10
	No. of Sample Sites	60	60	60	60
	90 th	0.21	0.17	2.0	4.0
	Range	BRL to 0.34	BRL to 0.34	BRL to 9.0	BRL to 102.0
PARC	Date	9/29/09		9/29/09	
	No. of Sample Sites	5		5	
	90 th	0.70		2.25	
	Range	BRL to 0.98		BRL to 4.0	
Cliff Haven/Bluff Point	Date	9/27/10		9/27/10	
	No. of Sample Sites	10		10	
	90 th	0.42		3.0	
	Range	BRL to 0.65		BRL to 3.0	
Likely Source of Contamination:		Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits		Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	

NOTES:

(1) The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected in the Cliff Haven/Bluff Point water systems and the 90th percentile was the ninth highest value. For Greater Plattsburgh, 60 samples were collected and the 90th percentile was the 54th highest 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 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the sites tested.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS DETECTED:								
	MCL	MCLG	Greater Plattsburgh	PARC ¹		Cliff Haven ¹	Bluff Point ¹	Southeast Beekmantown
			Average	RAA	Range	Average	Average	Average
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (ug/L)	80	-	4.0	0.75	BRL to 1.5	3.7	2.9	4.6
Date			8/20/2009	12/22/2008		8/28/2008	8/28/2008	7/3/2007
Violation			No	No		No	No	No
Likely Source of Contamination			By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms					

NOTES:

(1) The State allows us to monitor 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.

WELL # 8 – QUARTERLY MONITORING				
PARAMETERS	INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS		RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	
	FLUORIDE (mg/L)		COMBINED RADIUM-226 AND -228 (pCi/L)	GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE ACTIVITY(pCi/L)
MCL	2.2		5	15
MCLG	-		-	-
Violation	No		No	No
Dates	5/17/10, 8/17/10, 10/19/10		5/17/10, 9/7/10, 10/19/10	
Average	0.11		0.24	3.46
Range	BRL to 0.18		0 to 0.6	3.15 to 3.95
Likely Source of Contamination:	Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits		Decay of natural and man-made deposits of certain radioactive minerals.	Erosion of natural deposits of certain radioactive minerals

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.

RAA: Running annual average

BRL: Below reportable level

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

Water quality for the Greater Plattsburgh Water District has always been of exceptional quality. Water quality of all wells meets current Health Department Requirements. The Town collects ten monthly samples in Greater Plattsburgh, one monthly sample in each Southeast Beekmantown, Bluff Point, Cliff Haven and one quarterly sample at PARC for total coliform and E. coli analysis. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

If present, an elevated level of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with the service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Plattsburgh 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 3 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking and 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2010, monitoring violations were issued, as required samples from Well #8 for Synthetic Organic Chemicals, Principal Organic Chemicals and Radiologicals (Radium-228, Radium-226, and Gross Alpha Particle Activity, Total), due by March 31, 2010, were not submitted. Samples were taken on May 17, 2010 and results were below reportable limits. Disinfection by-product samples were missed for Greater Plattsburgh and Southeast Beekmantown for the summer of 2010. Our system was in compliance with all other applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

In this reporting period, the Greater Plattsburgh Water District experienced incidents requiring "Boil Water" notices. None of these incidents was as a result of system contamination, but were issued as precautions due to system leaks, breaks or pressure reductions. The dates and reasons for these notifications are as follows:

1. January 8, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
2. February 11, 2010 - Service Line Repair – Follow up samples negative
3. March 02, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
4. April 20, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
5. May 25, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
6. June 15, 2010 –Service Line Repair – Follow up samples negative
7. June 18, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
8. August 16, 2010 – Main Line Valve Repair – Follow up samples negative
9. August 17, 2010 – Hydrant Repair – Follow up samples negative
10. August 23, 2010 – Service Line Repair – Follow up samples negative
11. September 5, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative
12. September 29, 2010 – Service Line Repair – Follow up samples negative
13. October 14, 2010 – Water Main Repair – Follow up samples negative

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).

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 2010, 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 conservation, 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;
- ✓ 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.