

MARCH 2009

**ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT  
VILLAGE OF MONTOUR FALLS  
408 WEST MAIN STREET  
MONTOUR FALLS, NY 14865  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # NY4801184**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Montour Falls 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 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 your water you may contact our Water Operator, John Raplee at 607-535-9580 or the NYS Department of Health 607-324-8371. You may also attend meetings of the Village of Montour Falls Board of Trustees, which are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00p.m., in the Village Hall, 408 W. Main Street, Montour Falls. .

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

Our water is drawn from two wells located within the Village. There are 573 water service connections and the system serves a population of approximately 1800. During the calendar year 2008, 71,495,000 gallons of water were pumped, averaging 5,957,916 per month. A total of 43,898,200 gallons were billed, resulting in a loss of approximately 75,607 gallons per day. This would be due to emergency & training purposes, unmetered water (public uses), flushing hydrants , bleeders.

Water is pumped from two wells into the system that supply three water storage tanks. Water pumped at the well site is chlorinated as it is pumped. The chlorine residual is monitored daily at points within the distribution system.

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 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 Water Assessment Summary will be included when the data is available from the NYS Department of Health

## **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, bacteria, fecal coliform, *E. Coli* on treated water at various locations within the village on a monthly basis. Contaminants such as inorganic compounds include barium, nitrate, lead and copper. The table enclosed depicts which compounds were analyzed. None of the contaminants shown approach the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA. 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 water, might be reasonably expected to contain very small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or the NYS Health Department (607-324-8371)

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 Village of Montour Falls 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 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 OPERATION?**

During 2008 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 people 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/Centers for Disease Control 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.

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 customers. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments will be necessary to address the needed improvements. Plans for water system improvements may include meter replacement program, leak detection survey, replacement of undersized, deteriorated water mains, maintenance of water storage tanks, improvements to chlorine residual concentration & contact time in specific areas. A wellhead protection local law is being developed to further protect the source of our quality drinking water.



<u>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</u> (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	N	9/08	0.0169	ug/l	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic mater
<u>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)</u> (mono-, di- and tri-chloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	N	9/08	0.0014	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water Chlorination.
Total Coliform				N/A	0	Any Positive Sample	Naturally present in the environment
<a href="#">E. coli</a>				N/A	0	Any Positive Sample	Human and animal fecal contamination.

## Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- (MCLG)** is 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 Contaminant Level- (MCL)** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as possible.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** is 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)** is the level of 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.

**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(mgl)- (parts per million-ppm)** corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l)- (parts per billion ppb)** corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid

**Picocuries per liter (pCiL)**- Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in the water

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value**- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 lead and copper values detected in the water system.

