

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020
Town of Montgomery Water District #1
110 Bracken Road
Montgomery, NY 12549
(Public Water Supply ID# 3512264)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Montgomery's Water District #1 issues an annual report describing the quality of its 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. Numerous contaminants have been tested for over the life of the system, 2016 being the most recent year some samples of which were collected. We have detected 10 of these contaminants over that time span. This report provides an overview of the water quality since 2016 which, again, was the most recent year for which some contaminants have been tested. Since then, other contaminants have been tested, many multiple times, and are also part of this report. 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 system's office at (845) 457-2642 or attend any of the regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. You can contact the Town Clerk's office (457-2660) or the Supervisor's office (457-2600) with any questions.

WHERE DOES THE 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 prescribed regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State's Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The sources of water supply for this system are two groundwater, rock well, 400 and 415 feet deep. Prior to distribution the water is disinfected via liquid chlorine injection upon pumping from the wells. The system serves a population of approximately 1500, which consists of both residents and employees of commercial customers through a total of 34 service connections.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN THE DRINKING WATER?

As State regulations require, the system's water is routinely tested for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, iron and manganese, nitrate and nitrite, lead and copper, sodium, chloride, inorganic chemicals of which there are 13, volatile organic compounds of which there are 53, synthetic organic compounds of which there are 41 and radiological testing. The table presented on the following page depicts which compounds were detected in this system. The State allows for some contaminants to be analyzed for less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently while others are tested for more frequently. Some of the data, though representative, is more than one year old as mentioned above.

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 Orange County Health Department in Goshen at 291-2331.

All contaminants that were detected, including those that did not exceed any MCL, are listed in the table found on the following page. A contaminant of particular concern is chloride which has, in the past, exceeded the MCL. The assumed source of chloride is the application of de-icing salt used on Interstate 84. When the de-icing agent runs off the highway it percolates into the ground and eventually reaches the water table. The presence of chloride is primarily an aesthetic concern. The Town continues to investigate extension of this system to eventually connect with supplemental water supplies for long-term corrective action.

IS THE WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

This past year the system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements.

IS THE WATER CONSIDERED HARD?

Many customers enquire as to the hardness of their water. The most recent sampling has shown this system's water has a hardness level of 160 Mg/L (CaCO₃). This indicates our water is classified as hard. Water with levels greater than 150 Mg/l is considered hard; greater than 300 Mg/L is considered very hard. For your information water with a hardness concentration less than 75 Mg/l is considered soft.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Potential Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	4/27/2020	630	Ug/L	10,000	MCL=10,000	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	1/22/2018	42	Ug/L	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	No	1/22/2018	2.8	Ug/L	100	MCL = 100	Naturally Occurring
Sulfate	No	1/22/2018	24	Mg/L	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring; Leaching of highway road salt
Chloride	Yes	2020 range 2020 avg.	96-250 Avg. = 159	Mg/L	N/A	MDL = 250	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Sodium	No	1/16/20	110	Mg/L	Note #1		Leaching of highway road salt
Lead	No	June 2020	1.0-32 2.1 {90 th } {Note #2}	Ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	No	June 2020	43-410 {range} 170({90 th } {Note #2}	Ug/L	1,300	AL = 1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/05/20	22	Ug/L	N/A	MCL = 80	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. They are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

See notes on following page

Notes:

1 – There is no maximum contamination level for sodium. However, sodium can lead to high blood pressure in certain individuals and the Department of Health has set recommended levels for those on sodium restricted diets. For those on a severely restricted sodium diet, water with concentrations exceeding 20 mg/L should not be used for drinking. For those on a moderately restricted sodium diet, water with concentrations exceeding 270 mg/L should not be used for drinking.

2 – The level presented represents the range of all results, as well as 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 lead and 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 second highest value (2.1 ug/L for lead and 170 ug/L for copper). The action levels were not exceeded at any sites.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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).

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

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 the 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

HOW SUSCEPTIBLE IS THE DRINKING WATER TO CONTAMINATION?

The NYSDOH 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 "Table of Detected Contaminants" 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 earlier in this report, this system's water is supplied from drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of three State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) that are located in the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates this system's wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that this system's water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home or business 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 in this report.

Please be advised that any proposed development that occurs within the assessment area is carefully reviewed for potential impacts, both positive and negative, to the water source.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although this 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).

As listed in the Table of Detected Contaminants, the sodium level was 92 mg/l. Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used by people on a moderately restricted sodium diet.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although this 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.

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 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

In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply improvements must sometimes be made that will benefit all of the 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 customers help protect the water sources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call this office if you have questions.