

**VILLAGE OF ARGYLE**  
Municipal Building, PO Box 7  
Argyle, New York 12809  
Public Water Supply ID # 5700116  
**ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2014**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Argyle (Argyle), 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 that we sampled for. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminate level or any water quality standard that we sampled for. 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 Garry Robinson, P.E., our Water Commissioner @ (518) 695-3655. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more about our water system you are welcome to attend monthly Village Board Meetings. Dates and times are posted at Village Hall or can be obtained by contacting the Village Clerk at (518) 955-2766.

## **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.

The Village's water supply is provided by five (5) wells located in the Town of Argyle near Summit Lake. They vary from 315 feet in depth to 660 feet. Water from the wells is pumped to a storage tank (also located in the Town) from where it travels through pipelines by gravity to supply Village residents. The pumped water is chlorinated prior to entering the storage tank. Our back up or emergency water supply is an intake from Summit Lake.

The Village of Argyle Water System services approximately 495 people through 136 user units, i.e., the number of units equivalent to the usage of a single family home. This includes commercial and institutional units.

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 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 contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbial and nitrate contamination. These ratings are due primarily to close proximity of the wells to a septic system and permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and the associated industrial activity in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw 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. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The State Health Department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include 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.

## 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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below 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 New York State Department of Health – Glens Falls District Office @ (518) 793-3893.

| TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS                     |               |   |                     |       |                  |   |
|--|---------------|---|---------------------|-------|------------------|---|
| Contaminant  | Violation Y/N | Level Detected                                | Unit of Measurement | MCLG  | Regulatory Limit | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| <b>Inorganic Compounds</b>                         |               |   |                     |       |                  |   |
| Copper<br>(9/29/14 & 9/30/14)                      | N             | 0.166 <sup>1</sup><br>0.03-0.373 <sup>2</sup> | mg/l                | 1.3   | 1.3 = AL         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Barium<br>(7/28/11)                                | No            | .072  | mg/l                | 2     | 2=MCL            | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits              |
| Nitrate<br>(6/11/14)                               | N             | <0.10   | mg/l                | 10    | 10 = MCL         | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks or sewage; erosion of natural deposits.          |
| Lead<br>(9/29/14 & 9/30/14)                        | N             | .002<br>ND-0.005                              | Mg/l                | 0.015 | 0.015 = AL       | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives  |
| <b>Disinfection Byproducts - Stage 1 (8/12/10)</b> |               |   |                     |       |                  |   |
| Total Trihalomethanes                              | N             | 17  | ug/l                | 80    | 80 = MCL         | By-product of drinking water chlorination   |
| <b>Radiologicals</b>                               |               |   |                     |       |                  |   |
| Radium 226<br>(6/9/08)                             | N             | 0.04  | pCi/L               | 0     | 5 = MCL          | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Radium 228<br>(9/10/09)                            | N             | 1.07  | pCi/L               | 0     | 5 = MCL          | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Gross Beta<br>(2/26/09)                            | N             | 2.7   | pCi/L               | 0     | 50 = MCL         | Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.   |

### NOTES:

1 - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 19 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 the second highest sample result. Lead and copper were not detected above the Action Levels in any of the 19 samples collected.

2- Represents the range of 19 lead and copper samples.

### DEFINITIONS:

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

**MCL Goals (MGLC):** 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 error.

**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.

**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 a liquid (parts per million-ppm).

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

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no water quality violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State action levels.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2014, we did not complete all required monitoring and testing for contaminants, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. These included lead and copper on selected homes and nitrate. In previous years, samples for these contaminants did not indicate any issues with water quality. During 2014, the Village water system was in compliance with all other state drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **INFORMATION ON LEAD**

If present, elevated levels 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 service lines and home plumbing. We are 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **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?**

There are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water on a regular basis:

- .. 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 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**

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.