

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017***

Saratoga Water Services, Inc.

Stonebreak Road, PO Box 2109, Malta, NY 12020

Public Water Supply Identification Number NY4511620

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Saratoga Water Services 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. We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. Last year, your drinking water was tested for over 80 contaminants. We detected 1 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows in one of the 4 quarters of monitoring. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we modified our treatment process to rectify this problem. This report is 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 New York State standards. Our constant goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. If you have any questions concerning this report or concerning your drinking water please contact: *Marissa C. Mackay, Executive Vice President, Saratoga Water Services, Inc. PO Box 2109, Malta, NY 12020; Telephone (518) 899-6001, E. mail [mmackay@saratogawaterservices.com](mailto:mmackay@saratogawaterservices.com)*. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water service. If you want to learn more, please call us.

### **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The Saratoga Water Services draws its water from ground water sources. Groundwater or well water is stored below the surface of the earth in deep, porous rocks called aquifers. Groundwater is purified naturally as it filters through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. This process, known as percolation takes years to complete. As a result, groundwater requires less treatment than surface water. We pump this groundwater out through our 4 wells located at the Knapp Road wellfield and 3 wells located at the Cold Spring Road wellfield. The wells range in depth from 35 to 300 feet. The pumping capacity for all 6 wells is approximately 3.0 million gallons per day. At the Fox Wander Pumphouse there is a 300,000 gallon concrete storage tank to meet consumer demand and to provide adequate fire protection. Three pumps are variable speed and the other 2 pumps are not variable speed. At the Cold Spring Road Pumphouse there is a 752,000 gallon, steel/glass lined storage tank which is used to meet consumer demand and to provide adequate fire protection. Water pressure is maintained through 3 pressure pumps via a 300 gallon hydro-tank. All three pumps are variable speed. Pumping capacity from both pumphouses is determined by system pressure. Treatment of the water produced by the wells at each pumphouse consists of chlorination to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria and other organisms.

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 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 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.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The Saratoga Water Services provides water through 2,513 service connections to a population of approximately 7,000 people. Our average daily demand is 506,370 gallons. Our single highest day was 1,063,000 gallons. The total water produced in 2017 was 199,825,000 gallons. Total metered consumption was 195,461,050 gallons or 98% of the metered production. The total unaccounted for water or non-revenue producing water 2,363,950 gallons or 1.18%. Water rates are \$5.34 per 1000 gallons. The average annual water bill is approximately \$350.00 per year.

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with State regulations, the Saratoga Water Services routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides; radioactive contaminants; and organic chemical contaminants. In addition, we test 8 samples per month for coliform bacteria each month. The table presented on page 3 depicts which contaminants 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 the data, though representative, are more than one year old. For



a listing of all the parameters that we must analyze and the frequency of testing for compliance with the NYS Sanitary Code, see Appendix A.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 at (518) 793-3893.

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

As you can see by the table on page 3, our system had 1 violation. We exceeded the MCL of 0.3 mg/l for iron at Cold Springs Rd. and are required to furnish the following information:

*"Iron is a common metal and a dietary mineral that is essential for maintaining human health. It is used in construction materials, in drinking water pipes, paint pigments and plastics, and as a treatment for iron deficiency in humans. Iron can be elevated in drinking water in areas where there are high concentrations of iron in soil and rocks, and where iron salts are used in the water treatment process. Iron can also get into drinking water from corrosion of cast iron, steel and galvanized iron pipes used for water distribution. Elevated levels of iron in water can result in a rusty color and sediment, a metallic taste, and reddish or orange staining.*

*Although iron is essential for good health, too much iron can cause adverse health effects. For example, oral exposure to very large amounts of iron can cause effects on the stomach and intestines (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and stomach pain). These effects occur at iron exposure levels higher than those typically found in drinking water, and usually diminish once the elevated iron exposure is stopped. A small percentage of people have a condition called hemochromatosis, in which the body absorbs and stores too much iron. People with hemochromatosis may be at greater risk for health effects resulting from too much iron in the body (sometimes called "iron overload") and should be aware of their overall iron intake. The New York State standard for iron in drinking water is a 0.3 milligrams per liter, and is based on the effects of iron on the taste, odor and appearance of the water."*

Due to this exceedance, your water system has been placed on quarterly monitoring for iron.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these compounds were detected below New York State requirements. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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

During 2017, our system was in compliance with applicable 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. Saratoga Water Services 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

#### **IS OUR WATER SAFE FOR EVERYONE?**

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 about drinking water 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 microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **WHAT IS THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)?**

To emphasize the protection of surface and ground water sources used for public drinking water, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1996. The amendments require that New York State Department of Health's

Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection is responsible for ensuring that source water assessments are completed for all of New York's public water systems. A SWAP summary for our water supply is attached to this report.

#### **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

The Saratoga Water Services encourages water conservation. There are a lot of things you can do to conserve water in your own home. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when there is a full load.
- ◆ Use water saving showerheads.
- ◆ Install faucet aerators in the kitchen and the bathroom to reduce the flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ◆ Water gardens and lawn for only a couple of hours after sunset.
- ◆ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair all leaks promptly.
- ◆ Take shorter showers.

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:**

In 2017 there were no major improvements were made to the water system although some pipe was repaired along with valves and hydrants. Capital improvements for 2018 include the following:

- ◆ Plan to install 530 linear feet of 16-inch watermain in the spring of 2018.
- ◆ Intend to upgrade a 250,000 gallon storage tank and integrate it in to the existing storage tank at Fox Wander

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. Please call our office if you have questions.

**Saratoga Water Services  
NY4511620  
AWQR SWAP Summary**

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

The source water assessment did not identify any significant sources of contamination. However, the well fields draw from sand and gravel aquifers and only one of the wells has overlying soils that can provide protection from potential contamination. The overlying soils for the remaining wells overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination and are therefore susceptible to potential sources of contamination. Continued vigilance in compliance with water quality protection and pollution prevention programs as well as continued monitoring and enforcement will help to continue to protect groundwater quality. Please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The county and state health departments 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 can be obtained by contacting us at the number provided in the annual report.



**SARATOGA WATER SERVICES TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS**  
Public Water Supply Identification Number NY4522359

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> (samples from 11/6/17) unless otherwise noted							
Barium	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	71.1 14.9	ppb	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	17.3 13.9	ppm	N/A	250	Geology; Naturally occurring
Chromium	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	1.1 1.2	ppb	100	100	Geology; Naturally occurring
Copper (samples from 6/23/15-7/29/15) Range of copper concentrations		N	0.35 <sup>1</sup> ND-0.49	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
Iron	Cold Spring Fox Wander	Y N	364 44.7	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Lead (samples from 6/23/15-7/29/15) Range of lead concentrations		N	2 <sup>2</sup> ND-9	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	44.3 7.9	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
pH	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	7.8 7.6	units		6.5-8.5	
Sodium <sup>3</sup>	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	8.02 6.77	ppm	N/A	N/A	Geology; Road Salt
Sulfate	Cold Spring Fox Wander	N	26.7 10.9	ppm	N/A	250	Geology;
Zinc	Fox Wander	N	8.3	ppb	N/A	5000	Galvanized pipe; corrosion inhibitor
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b> (THM & HAA5 samples from 7/11/17)							
Chlorine (based on daily testing) Range of chlorine residuals		N	0.32 0.12- 0.49	ppm	MRDLG N/A	MRDL 4	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Luther Forest		N	0.772	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM[Total Trihalomethanes] Luther Forest		N	1.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**NOTES-**

1. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 20 test sites. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested
2. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 20 test sites. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 20 sites tested
3. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets;

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*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 at your water system

*Action Level* - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

*N/A-Not applicable*

