Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010
Town of Ellicottville Consolidated Water District No. 1
P. O. Box 600, Ellicottville, New York 14731
(Public Water Supply ID NY0412217)
Town of Great Valley Water District No. 2
P. O. Box 291, Great Valley, New York 14741
(Public Water Supply ID NY0430002)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Ellicottville Consolidated Water District No. 1 and the Town of Great Valley Water District No. 2 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 that 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 this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact either Mark Alianello, Town Engineer, at (716) 699-4773 or Harold Morton, Chief Water Operator, at (716) 699-2935. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings. Town of Ellicottville Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall located at One West Washington Street. Town of Great Valley Board meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall located at 4808 Route 219 in Great Valley.

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, 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 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 Town of Ellicottville serves 900 people through 990 service taps and the Great Valley water system serves approximately 320 people through 87 service connections. Our water source is groundwater. Great Valley Water District # 2 purchases all of its water from the Town of Ellicottville. The Town of Ellicottville owns and operates a well known as Town Well #1. This well is approximately 52 feet deep in a sand and gravel aquifer and is capable of producing 400 gallons a minute and is located just south of the Inn at Holiday Valley. The water produced is disinfected by the addition of chlorine prior to being pumped into the distribution system. The Town District also purchases water from the Village of Ellicottville. The water we purchase from the Village is drawn from two groundwater sources. Village Well # 1 is located in Sun-up Holiday Park. It is 70 feet deep and can produce 400 gallons per minute. Village Well # 3 is located in the Village Park, is 65 feet deep and can produce 500 gallons per minute. The Village water is also disinfected with chlorine prior to being pumped into the distribution system.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for our water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking waters sources were evaluated. The source water assessment includes susceptibility ratings based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential contamination of the source water. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "ARE 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.

The Ellicottville District operates Town Well #1. The source water assessment has rated the susceptibility to contamination for this well as high from enteric bacteria, enteric viruses, cations/anions (salts, sulfate), halogenated solvents, metals, nitrates, other industrial organics, petroleum products and protozoa; and medium-high from herbicides/pesticides. These ratings for the well are due to its proximity to pasture lands and permitted discharge facilities (industrial/ commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). While the assessment rates our source as being susceptible to enteric bacteria, 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.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

ARE 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, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. We also monitor chlorine residual daily. 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 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 at 800-426-4791 or the Cattaraugus County Health Department at 716-373-8050.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectants							
Chlorine Residual	N	2010	Avg. = .32 (.01 - .65)	mg/l	n/a	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic – Town Well	N	7/15/10	.6	ug/l	n/a	MCL = 10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium - Town Well	N	7/15/10	8	ug/l	2000	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper[1] - Ellicottville Town -Great Valley Dist. #2	 N N	 8/19/09 8/19/09	 17 (ND-330) 116 (11-140)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead[2] -Great Valley Dist. #2	 N	 8/19/09	 4.35 (ND-7.6)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel – Town Well	N	7/15/10	2	ug/l	N/A	None set	
Nitrate - Town Well - Vill. Well No. 3	N N	8/17/10 10/20/10	1,010 1,120	ug/l	10,000	MCL=10,000	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection By-Products							
Haloacetic Acids -Great Valley Dist. #2	N	8/21/08 8/5/10	1.5 *Stage 1 results* (1-2) *Stage 2 results*	ug/l	n/a	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes -Great Valley Dist. #2	N	8/21/08 8/5/10	17 *Stage 1 results* (14-16) *Stage 2 results*	ug/l	n/a	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 228 - Town Well - Vill. Well #1 - Vill. Well #3	N N N	2008 2008 2008	Avg. = .25 (.038-.465) Avg. = .315 (.194 - .436) Avg. = .127 (.078 - .177)	pCi/L	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Trichloroethene – Town Well	N	7/15/10	.6	ug/l	0	MCL = 5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.

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 from the Ellicottville Town system and five samples were collected from the Great Valley W.D. #2 system. The 90th percentile values were 17 ug/l for the Ellicottville Town system and 116 ug/l for the Great Valley W.D. #2 system. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
2 - The 90th percentile level for lead in the Great Valley W.D. #2 was 4.35 ug/l. None of the sites exceeded the action level of 15 ug/l.

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.
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.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected at values well below the level allowed by the State. We are required to provide the following information on lead in drinking water.

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 Town of Ellicottville 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.

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?

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 and helps 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. Please call our office if you have questions.