

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Village of Chatham, NY  
77 Main St., Chatham, NY 12037  
(Public Water Supply ID#1000234)  
March 21, 2013*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Chatham, 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. 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 **Ed Czyzewski at 518-392-2525**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board water meetings. The meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tracy Memorial Village Hall, 77 Main St., Chatham, NY 12037.

## 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 that 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.

Our water system serves 3250 people through 830 connections. Our water source is the Kline Kill well, which is located on County Rte. 21, Town of Ghent. The water is treated with chlorine prior to distribution.

We have a Wellhead Protection Plan for the Kline Kill well available in our office that provides more information regarding the way we are protecting our water shed.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.



- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. The Village of Chatham routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We test your drinking water for 8 inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, and 20 synthetic organic compounds and volatile organic contaminants. In addition, we test the water for coliform bacteria three times a month and pH and chlorine once a day.

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 Columbia County Health Dept. at 518-828-3358.

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.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Acceptable Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	N	2008	.002 (1) <0.001-0.015	mg/L	0	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	2008	.19 (2) <0.02-1.13	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preserves.
Nitrate as N	N	2012	.6 <0.2-10.0	mg/L	10	AL=10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (monochloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid and mono and dibromoacetic acid)	N	2011	13.8 0-60	ug/L	N/A	AL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms  Health Effects: Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane,	N	2011	24.7 0-80	ug/L	N/A	AL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.  Health Effects: Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess



dibromochloro methane, and bromoform)							of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
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(1)– The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was second highest value i.e., .003mg/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

(2) – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was second highest value i.e., .21 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

**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).

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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

During 2011, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this source, 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. While nitrates were detected in our water, it should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, poses a health risk. See section, “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 1-caisson well and 1-drilled well (auxiliary). The source



water assessment has rated these wells as having high to very high susceptibility to microbials, industrial solvents, nitrates and other industrial contaminants. The auxiliary well and the caisson well are prone to flooding. Please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

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, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

### **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, 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.

### **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.