

# TOWN OF NEW SCOTLAND PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

## 2018 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Report based on data compiled in 2018 and prior)

### NORTHEAST WATER DISTRICT

**PWS ID # 0130008**

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality water and services we delivered to you the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

#### Source of Water

Your water comes from 2 wells located at 36 Smith Lane in the Orchard Park Development. Raw water is pumped from the wells to the pump house where it is chlorinated and sent to an underground storage tank. Water is pumped from the storage tank to a pressurized tank and then delivered to your tap. An average of 21,614 gallons of water is pumped each day to 123 households.

The pump house is equipped with an automatic alarm system to alert us of power failures, pump failures, low system pressures, and low water supply. It also has a back up generator that automatically engages to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water. An addition back-up water supply is also available to us through a connection with the Village of Voorheesville water supply.

#### Water Quality

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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)

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 animal 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.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected above the MCL in your drinking water.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Date	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Chloride	9/08	N	38	Mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt.
Total Hardness	8/12		430	Mg/l			
Iron, Total	3/09	N	0.229	Mg/L	N/A	0.30	Naturally occurring.
Manganese, Total	3/09	N	0.100	Mg/L	N/A	0.30	Naturally occurring; indicative of landfill contamination.
Sodium <sup>1</sup>	9/08	N	15.1	Mg/L		N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Sulfate	9/08	N	58	Mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
Copper <sup>2</sup>	9/16	N	0.40	Mg/L	0	1.3	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult with their personal doctors.
Lead <sup>3</sup>	9/16	N	.003	Mg/L		0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Trihalomethanes (Total)	3/17	N	<4.0 <sup>4</sup>	Ug/L			By product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate	12/16	N	.05	Mg/L		<0.2-10.00	<b>Nitrate</b> naturally occurs in a number of foods, particularly vegetables. It is also used as preservatives in meats such as bacon. Nitrate is also used to make lawn, garden and agricultural fertilizers and is found in sewage and wastes from farm animals. It generally gets into drinking water by run off into surface water or by leaching into ground water after application or after improper sewage or animal waste disposal.

<sup>1</sup>Water containing more than 20mg/L of sodium should not be use by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270mg/L of sodium should not be use for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

<sup>2</sup> - 5 samples were collected at your water system and this represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

<sup>3</sup> - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 5 sites tested. 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 could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of the materials used in your homes plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested on your own by a local company. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water may also help in lessening the amount of lead. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

<sup>4</sup> - Acceptable range 0-80

#### Source protection plan

The Town of New Scotland in the interest of preserving our water resources has established a source protection plan. The purpose of this plan is to eliminate contamination in the vicinity of our wellheads. For more information on this plan you may call the water department office at 439-0938.

## Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis

New York State law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis. These are intestinal illnesses caused by microscopic parasites. Cryptosporidiosis can be very serious for people with weakened immune systems, such as chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients, and people with Crohn's disease or HIV infection.

People with weakened immune systems should discuss with their health care providers the need to take extra precautions such as boiling water, using certified bottled water or a specially approved home filter. The Town of New Scotland Public Water Supply is a closed system and has a minimal risk of cryptosporidium and giardia being present.

## Water Conservation

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both 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 restrictions.
- You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can.

### **Conservation tips:**

- 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 or shaving.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15-20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you could save almost 6000 gallons per year.
- **Check your toilets** for leaks by shutting of the water supply line valve located below the tank, wait 20-30 minutes and turn the valve back on; if water starts to flow to fill the tank then you probably have a leak. **It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day** from one of those otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you could save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks while you're away from home. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances (dishwashers, washing machines, lawn sprinklers, etc.) then before you leave the house record the number on the water meter, when you return home and before you use any water re-read the water meter, if the number has changed you may have a leak.
- Use low flow showerheads.
- Water your lawn (**only when needed**) in early morning or late evening to avoid evaporating.
- **Before** using lawn sprinklers find out how many gallons of water they use each minute of operation (gpm) then multiple that number by the amount of time the sprinkler is on, this will give you an idea of just how much you're applying to your lawn. (Example: If you have a sprinkler head that uses (2 gpm x 30 min) = 60 gallons x (6 sprinkler heads) = 360gallons x (5 days a week) = 1800 gallons each week. If you did this for four months (May, June, July and August) you would be using approximately 30,600 gallons of water.
- Don't cut your lawn too short. Longer grass saves water.
- Wash your car with a bucket and a hose with a nozzle.

A few simple steps will preserve the resource for future generations and also save up to 30% on your water bill.

## Additional information

Water main flushing is done annually in the spring; **exact dates for your district can be found on our web site [www.townofnewscotland.com](http://www.townofnewscotland.com) one to two weeks prior to flushing.**

Radio-read water meters are installed in each home or business, these save time and resources by having our employee read your meter from the roadway with the use of a laptop computer and radio receiver which then can be directly loaded into the billing system. These meters have leak detection and tamper controls built in so that we can alert you of possible leaks in your home and to ensure that all water is properly metered which saves you and the district money. Should we detect a problem we will contact you to schedule an appointment to correct the issue.

**If anyone comes to your door representing themselves as a water department employee ask to see their Town of New Scotland ID card. If they cannot produce one do not let them in and contact the local authorities right away.**

The Town of New Scotland Water Committee currently meets monthly at the Town Hall. You may visit our web site [www.townofnewscotland.com](http://www.townofnewscotland.com) or call the Town Hall at 439-4865 for a current meeting schedule. The meeting is open to public participation to ask any questions or express any concerns and comments you may have about your water system.

## 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)

**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 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.

**Not Applicable:(N/A)**

**Maximum Residual Level Disinfectant (MRLD):** 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 Goal (MRLDG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRLDGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### Summary

The New Scotland Water Department takes pride in providing our customers with a quality source of drinking water. Everyone should take a role in protecting and conserving our water resources.

If you have any questions concerning your water supply and or billing, please contact us at 439-4889 Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, questions about your Water Quality Report should be directed to Wayne LaChappelle, Commissioner of Public Works.

Should you have any other question concerning your water quality that our department cannot answer, you can contact the Albany County Health Department at 447-4580 (general information)

**The Town of New Scotland is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410**