

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016**  
**Village of Hancock**  
**85 East Front St., Hancock, NY 13783**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# NY 1200266)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, The Village of Hancock 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 Earl Swartwout, III, Water Operator at 607-637-3654 or 85 East Front St., Hancock, NY 13783. 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 meetings. The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 10:00 am. at the Village Clerk's Office, 85 East Front Street, Hancock, NY.

**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.

Our water system serves 1,082 people through approximately 500 service connections. Our water source consists of two wells located within the Village. The water is treated with chlorine for disinfection and zinc ortho- phosphate for sequestering purposes prior to distribution.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 (and other inorganic contaminants) have been detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of low intensity residential activities and septic systems within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our well (s) 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. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be viewed at the Village Clerk's office upon request.

**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, nitrite, lead and copper, and volatile organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test from 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, may 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 Health Department – Oneonta District Office at 607-432-3911.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected (Avg/Ma x) (Range)</b>	<b>Unit Measur e-ment</b>	<b>MCL G</b>	<b>Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	Month-ly	0	Any positive sample	0	Any positive sample	Naturally present in the environment.
2. Lead *	NO	7/6/16	90 <sup>th</sup> % 0.0053	Mg/l	N/A	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

3. Copper *	NO	5/4/16	90 <sup>th</sup> % .96	Mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
4. Nitrate	NO	6/2/16	.246	Mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
5. Total THM	NO	7/7/16	3.6	Ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
6. Total HAA	NO	7/7/16	3.5	Ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
7. Barium	NO	9/15/16	32	Ug/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
8. Chloride **	NO	9/15/16	27	Mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
9. Sulfate	NO	9/15/16	5.44	Mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
10. Sodium	NO	9/15/16	14.1	Mg/l	N/A	(See Health Effects) <sup>1</sup>	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
11. Zinc**	NO	12/3/13	0.102	Mg/l	N/A	5	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
12. Combined radium – 226 and 228**	NO	10/6/15	0.145 (226 =.433) (228=0.221)	Pci/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
13. Gross alpha **activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)**	NO	10/6/15	0.633	Pci/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
14. Odor	NO	9/15/16		Units	1		Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges;

**Notes:**

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\* DOH states our corrosion control is optimized

\*\* Testing not required for 2016

**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.

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

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

1 – The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, (include number of samples, e.g. ten samples) samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the (include what sample had the highest value, e.g. second highest) value (include level detected, e.g. 1.1 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the (include number of samples, e.g. ten samples) samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the 10 sites tested.

3 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

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

**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 below New York State requirements. We are using an ortho-phosphate sequestering agent to further reduce the lead and copper levels in future sampling results.

We are required to present 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 Village of Hancock *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>.

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

During 2016 our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

**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 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.