

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2004

Lusk and Stony Lonesome Water Treatment Plants

Directorate of Public Works

West Point, New York

(Public Water Supply ID# 3511887 and 3511338)

Introduction

The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is issuing this annual report to inform you of your drinking water quality and raise your awareness of the need to conserve our drinking water sources. Your tap water continues to meet all New York State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of 2004'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 would like to learn more about your drinking water, please contact **Mr. Greg Jones**, Chief, Water and Wastewater Branch, at **938-2109**, anytime between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

Where does our water come from?

In general, drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) comes from 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, or other contaminants. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbiological; inorganic; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals; and radioactive substances. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set limits for the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

West Point's water sources are from the lakes and ponds in the USMA training areas west of Route 9W. The water withdrawn from the lakes is filtered to removed particulate matter. Chlorine is added to kill microorganisms. Fluoride is also added for tooth protection and sodium carbonate is used for water softening and corrosion control prior to distribution.

Facts and Figures

Our water system serves 11,500 people through 1,560 service connections. The total water produced in 2004 was 960 million

gallons. The average water volume treated is 2.6 million gallons per day. During our highest single production day, at our Lusk Plant, we treated 2.7 million gallons of water. The highest single combined production day for Lusk and Stony was 4.1 million gallons of water. These values do not account for an estimated system loss of 10%, attributable to flushing mains, fighting fires or from system leaks.

Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous potential contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. In 2004 we initiated the State required testing for a group of chemicals called haloacetic acids, which like trihalomethanes, are formed by the reaction of chlorine with organic matter present in the water. Table 1 depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State sets the frequency for testing so some contaminants are tested monthly, annually or on a 3 or 5 year cycle.

It should be understood that drinking water is not "pure" or sterile. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water may contain small amounts of some impurities. The presence of impurities 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 Orange County Department of Health at (845) 291-2331.

Table 1 Analytical Testing Summary

Parameters	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample (frequency)	Level Detected (Max)	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Unit Measurement	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity ⁽¹⁾	No	Daily (24hr/7 days) Monthly	MCL Lusk = 0.43 Stony = 0.75 TT Lusk = 2.2% Stony = 4.3%	MCL = 0.5 TT = <5.0%	N/A	NTU	Soil Runoff

Color	No	Aug 04	Lusk = 15 Stony = 20 ⁽²⁾	MCL = 15	N/A	Units	Large quantities of organic chemicals or inadequate treatment.
Radium 228	No	Quarterly 2004 (every 4 years)	Lusk = 1.92 Stony = 1.30	MCL = 5	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	Monthly	Lusk = 1.37 Stony = 1.97	MCL = 2.2	N/A	mg/l	Water additive that prevents tooth decay.
Odor	No	Aug 04	Lusk = 2 Stony = 2	MCL = 3	N/A	Units	Organic or inorganic pollutants and natural sources.
Sodium	No	Aug 04	Lusk = 14.2 Stony = 15.0	20 for people on severely restricted diets	N/A	mg/l	Naturally occurring, road salt or animal waste. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets.
Sulfate	No	Aug 04	Lusk = 7.8 Stony = 7.2	MCL = 250	N/A	mg/l	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	Aug 04	Lusk = 18.0 Stony = 16.0	MCL = 250	N/A	mg/l	Naturally occurring, Road salt, Landfills

Total	No	Quarterly (Stony includes DOH sample of 7/28)	Lusk = 48.5 ⁽³⁾	MCL=80	N/A	ug/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs & HAC5 are formed when source water organic matter reacts with Chlorine to produce the THM & HAC5.
Trihalomehtanes (TTHMs - chloroform, bromodichlormethane, dibromochlormethane, and bromoform)	No	Quarterly	Range = 40.2-53.2 Stony = 55.7 ⁽³⁾	MCL = 60	N/A	ug/l	
Haloacetic acids (HAC5 -- Monocohloroacetic acid Trichloro..., Dibromoacetic..., Dichloro..., Monobromo...)			Lusk = 24.5 Range = 11-32 Stony = 23.6 Range = 18.5-26				

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (0.75 NTU) for the year occurred on July 21. A treatment technique violation occurs if more than 5% of the composite filter effluent measurements taken each month exceed the performance standard values.

2 - Average of 3 repeat samples and the initial sample was 6.9 which is below the MCL of 15. An MCL violation occurs when the average of the two results exceeds the MCL.

3 – This level represents the average of the four quarter running averages of TTHM concentrations reported.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above the method detection limit.

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 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.

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

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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

What does this information mean?

As Table 1 indicates, our system had no violations. Although several parameters were detected, all results were below New York State Water Quality standards (see Table 1). As of January 1, 2004 the MCL for trihalomethanes was reduced to a quarterly average of 80 ug/l from 100ug/l.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2004, 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 caused by 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/Centers for Disease Control (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?

Here are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- 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.
- 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.

We performed a water conservation study looking for opportunities to conserve water. The major opportunity for cost effective water conservation was public awareness and individual efforts to conserve water. Identifying leaks, using and maintaining water conserving devices and replacing old devices with water conservation devices is the best way to cost effectively conserve water. Notifying us of problems in a timely manner helps us conserve water and serve you.

System Improvements

In 2004, the DPW has continued several operational procedures to minimize the production of disinfection by-products such as trihalomethanes. To meet new regulatory guidelines, DPW is aggressively pursuing several operational and process changes to reduced the trihalomethane levels in the finished water. DPW is continuing to enhance plant operations and reduce the chlorine used for disinfection. Since chlorine reacts with organics in the water to form trihalomethanes & other chemicals, any reduction in

chlorine dose, will help minimize production of these by-products. The DPW has also established an aggressive flushing maintenance program for fire hydrants, water mains and pump stations to improve the water quality in all areas. These efforts have significantly reduced trihalomehtane production, ensuring we are well below the regulatory limit of 80 ug/l. In addition to these studies and process changes, the DPW has upgraded the water treatment facilities by installing new chlorinators and turbidity meters at both plants. We have also cleaned and inspected all our water storage tanks. We continue to inspect our mains for leaks. At the Lusk Plant, automated control valves have been installed to improve flow and control water levels in the Plant.

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. 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.

The DPW strives to continually provide you with safe and dependable drinking water. Occasionally, systems need to be serviced, which could cause temporary disruption to service. We request your patience and understand during these events, but do not hesitate to contact your service desk at 938-2316/4031 if you experience a water problem. The DPW appreciates your concern and interest in your drinking water supply.