

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State Regulations, the Amsterdam Water Treatment Plant annually issues 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, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected a level higher than the State allows for Haloacetic Acids and Lead levels. At that time the Public was notified that our water was temporarily exceeding drinking water standards and we are in the process of rectifying the problem by upgrading the Water Treatment process. Our Total Trihalomethane current annual average is now 78.2 mg/l (80mg/l is the limit) in compliance. Total Haloacetic Acids current annual average is 60.1 mg/l (60 mg/l is the limit) that 0.1 puts the City in violation. Turbidity performance standard is currently in compliance. 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 questions relating to your drinking water, contact Michael Ryba, Chief Plant Operator or Michael Cislo, Laboratory Director, 843-3009. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

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 and the FDA's Regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Our water source is surface water drawn from a combination of 3 City owned Reservoirs located approximately 13 miles from the City. During 2008, our system did not experience any restrictions of our water source. Each of the three reservoirs has its own characteristics of water quality. This requires different chemical treatment at the Water Treatment Plant, depending on which source is being used. Reservoirs are alternated mainly based on weather conditions, or raw water quality. The Treatment Plant enhances our raw water by removing any solids, metals (primarily iron and manganese), color producing compounds or other organic and inorganic compounds. At the Treatment Plant, we continuously monitor the clarity and disinfectant levels to ensure the bacteriological safety of the water. Chemical treatment consists of coagulation with Sodium Aluminate and Aluminum Sulfate. Disinfection by Chlorination and Chlorine Dioxide and corrosion control by pH adjustment with Hydrated Lime. Physical treatment consists of aeration, flocculation and filtration.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 18,500 people through 6,000 service connections within the City limits. In 2008 The City delivered 35,577,984 (million gallons) to the Town of Amsterdam water district, and 3,026,408 (million gallons) to the Town of Florida water district serving their industrial & residential needs. The total water produced in 2008 was 1,703,090,000, (billion) gallons. The daily average of water treated and put into the distribution system was 4,666,000 (million) gallons per day. Our highest single day was 5,544,000

(million) gallons. The amount of water delivered was 1,703,090,000 (billion) gallons. This water was used for domestic and industrial use, to flush mains, fight fires and undetectable leakage. In 2008, commercial water customers were charged \$2.07 per 100 cubic feet, while the residential flat rate charge was \$313.77 per unit.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, total haloacetic acids, radiological contaminants, and synthetic organic compounds. None of the following compounds were detected in your drinking water: Total Coliform, Volatile Organic Compounds, Synthetic Organic Compounds; and the following Inorganic Compounds: Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Selenium, Fluoride, Antimony, Beryllium, Nickel, Thallium, Nitrate and Cyanide. The table presented depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than a 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Herkimer District Health Department at 315-866-6879. As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. Bacteriological and total coliform testing is performed a minimum of 20 times per month and routine physical and chemical testing is performed everyday, as often as every four hours. Turbidity and chlorine residual monitoring residual monitoring is performed continuously, using automated on-line measuring devices.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN ?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; the Haloacetic Acid levels were detected above the MCL OF 60.0 ug/l the current running average is 60.1 ug/l. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on Haloacetic Acids in drinking water:

“Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.”

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded, 13 of the 120 samples ranged from .016 to .044 of which .015 is the limit. Based on this exceedance we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

“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.

This notice is provided so that you can take prudent steps to protect your health. Individuals that have symptoms described in the above notice may wish to seek medical attention. By sampling we continue to monitor the water quality. All tests current indicate no presence of Coliform Bacteria in any of the distribution samples tested. 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 2008, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS ?

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.

- 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 plan 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 house 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.
- Commercial properties with water meters can detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

There were no major improvements made in 2008. Routine maintenance and repairs will continue until the upgrade construction of the Plant begins.



TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, AL, TT)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Turbidity ¹ Filtration TT-0.3	No	Continuous	.05 - .98 range 98.9% -100% range	NTU	TT	TT=95% of Samples -0.3 NTU	Soil Run-off
Total Coliform	No	Monthly	1	< NA		MCL = 2 or more positive samples	0 Naturally present in the environment
Distribution System Turbidity	No	Continuous	.18 - 2.31 range .64 -Average	NTU	5.0	(MCL)	Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium of microbial growth.
INORGANICS CONTAMINANTS							
Copper ²	No	4/2010/2005	4/2008 10/2008 Average Range = .02-.53	.27 Average .15 Average		1.3 (AL)	1.3 Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead ³	Yes	6/2008	4/2008 10/2008 Average Range = ND	.22 Average .016 Average .014 Average		.015 (AL)	0 Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Free Chlorine Residual Distribution System	No	Continuous	.01 - 2.24 range .55 -Average	mg/l	4		A measurable residual is required by NYSDOH.
RADIOLOGICALS							
Gross Alpha	No	12/5/2001	.083	pCi/L		5.0 pCi/l	0 Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Gross Beta ⁴	No	12/5/2001	1.18	pCi/L		50.0 pCi/l	0 Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Radium 226 Total	No	12/2008	.74	pCi/L	5 (Combined)	N/A	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Radium 228 Total	No	6/2008	.62	pCi/L	Radium 22	6/228	N/A Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS							
Total Trihalomethanes ⁵	No	Quarterly Samples	66 rolling Annual Average Range 21-128	ug/l		80 ug/l	N/A By-products of drinking water chlorination. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids ⁵	Yes	Quarterly Samples	59.5 rolling Quaterly Average Range 27-128	ug/l		60 ug/l	N/A By-products of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Dioxide	No	Daily Samples	Range .05	mg/l		0.80 (MCL)	0.80 (MRDLG) Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite	No	Daily Samples	Range .10 - .93	mg/l		Average of three distribution system resamples exceeds 1.0 mg/l - MCL violation	0.80 (MCLG) Water additive used to control microbes.

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 turbidity measurement leaving the treatment plant of the year was .98 on 12/23/08 NTU. State regulations require that 95% of turbidity measurements below 0.30 NTU. Our highest single turbidity measurement in the Distribution System for the year was 2.31 NTU.
- 2 - The level presented represents 90th percentile of the 60 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, sixty samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the seventh highest sample with a level of .15 on 10/08 and .2 for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 3 - The level presented represents of the 90th percentile of the 60 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded on 4/08.
- 4 - The State considers 50 pCi / l to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- 5 - The level presented represents the annual quarterly average calculated from the samples collected.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible. Maximum Contaminant Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. Maximum Residual Disinfective Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of water disinfectant to control microbial contamination. Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to person. 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. Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

CLOSING

In the fall of 2008 plans were submitted to the State Health Department for approval of the City's Water Treatment Plant improvements. The plans are being reviewed in hopes to begin construction early summer of 2009. Despite the age of the technology and treatment process at the Water Treatment Plant, the City is proud to report that there were no Trihalomethane violations or Turbidity Level Exceedence for 2008. This is an indication of the dedication and experiences of the staff and management at the Water Treatment Facility, which involves hands on operation. The City will be re-testing a LIMITED number of Lead samples in May. If you would like to have your water tested as part of our sampling program please call 843-3009 as soon as possible.

On behalf of myself, the operators and staff we thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you with a safe quality water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of the community. The Amsterdam Water Treatment Plant and Source of Supply personnel are professionally skilled, and receive on going training to be licensed with the New York State Department of Health.

Through the continued support of Mayor Ann Thane, Water Chairman Richard Leggiero, and the members of the Common Council, we will continue to do our best by providing you with a safe quality drinking water this year and years to follow. The City of Amsterdam Water Treatment Plant delivered safe water in 2008. We continue to strive to improve our water quality by improving our treatment processes and by implementing water system improvement projects. This water supply statement is being prepared for our customers in accordance with New York State Public Health Law. Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, those who may not have received this notice directly. Example: tenants, patients, schools and businesses.

Please call our office at 843-3009
if you have any questions.



Michael C. Ryba, Chief Plant Operator

AMSTERDAM WATER TREATMENT PLANT

250 Brookside Avenue
Amsterdam, New York 12010

Ann M. Thane, Mayor
Common Council
Joseph M. Isabel
Daniel Roth
Kim Brumley
William D. Willis
Richard Leggiero

Current Resident

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
AMSTERDAM, NY
PERMIT #103

AMSTERDAM WATER TREATMENT PLANT



2009 Annual Report for 2008 Drinking Water Quality



250 Brookside Avenue
Amsterdam, New York 12010

Public Water Supply ID#2800136