

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2018
The City of Oneonta
110 East Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
System Address
(Public Water Supply ID# 10991000)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, [The City of Oneonta](#), 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. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.](#) 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 [Stanley H. Shaffer, Chief Operator, 607-433-3470](#). We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Public Service meetings. The meetings are held the first Thursday of every month.

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's 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 Wilber Lake and the Lower Reservoir that are located off Upper East Street, and the Catella Park Well located in Neahwa Park. During 2018, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water flows by gravity from the Lower Reservoir, and is pumped from Catella Park Well (when in use), through the Water Treatment Plant, After filtration, disinfection, pH adjustment, fluoridation, and corrosion control treatment the water is pumped to the storage tanks and the distribution system.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 15,954 people who live in the City of Oneonta, and parts of the Town of Oneonta. The total water produced in 2018 was 543 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 1.49 million gallons. Our highest single day was 2.31 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 399 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 144 million gallons or 27% of the total produced. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage. In 2018, the annual average water charge per user was \$575.99.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. 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.

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 (800-426-4791) or the [New York State Health Department](#) at [607-432-3911](#).

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, and synthetic organic compounds. 232 samples were collected from various locations in the distribution system, and analyzed for Total Coliform and E. coli. Actual laboratory reports for all analyses are available at the City Clerks office in City Hall and at the Water Treatment Plant on East St. Additionally, all results of analyses are submitted to the New York State Department of Health.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination

Samples of finished water from the Water Treatment Plant:

Turbidity (1)	No	02/19/18	0.103	NTU	N/A	TT = <1NTU	Soil Runoff
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Turbidity of the water leaving the Plant is measured continuously with an inline analyzer, and every 3 hours of operations in the laboratory.

TTHM (2)	No	2018	56/23.6-82.6	ug/L	N/A	MCL =80 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination
HAA (2)	No	2018	36.1/16.3-59	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination

[16](#) samples for TTHM and HAA analyses were collected from various locations in the distribution system.

Potassium	No	11/14/2018	0.599	mg/L	N/A	No MCL	
Sodium	No	11/14/2018	21.3	mg/L	N/A	No MCL	
Zinc	No	11/14/2018	0.12	mg/L	5.0	MCL=5.0 mg/L	Naturally Occurring; Mining waste
Sulfate	No	11/14/2018	7.8	mg/L	250	MCL=250mg/L	Naturally Occurring
Chloride	No	11/14/2018	43.3	mg/L	N/A	No MCL	
Phosphorus	No	11/14/2018	1.37	mg/L	N/A	No MCL	
Nitrate	No	11/14/2018	0.13	mg/L	10	MCL=10 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	11/14/2018	0.0061	mg/L	2	MCL=2 mg/L	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal Refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cryptosporidium	No	3/18 – 8/18	0		N/A	No MCL	

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 (0.103 NTU) for the year occurred on 02/19/18. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. 99% of the turbidity samples collected in 2018 had measurements below 0.3 NTU.

2 – This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data 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 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 a 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.

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

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

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).

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).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2018, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2018, as part of our routine sampling, 6 samples collected from raw water were analyzed for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Of these samples, none were positive for Cryptosporidium oocysts.

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 firefighting 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to 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

Completed in 2018

- East St Water Main Replacement (Bugbee Rd to Town Line)
- Crestmont Terrace Pressure Reducing Valve & Vault Replacement
- Misc. Distribution System Gate Valve Replacements
- Water Distribution Main Flushing Plan
- WTP Boiler Rm. Ventilation
- Finished Water Tank Ladder Replacement
- Filter Valve Actuator Repairs
- Filter Flume MIOX Metering Pump Installation
- Filter Weirs Adjusted
- Removal of finished water basin aeration system
- Repaired intermittent service vault and new hatch
- New rapid mix – Cl₂ Analyzer
- Cleaned, inspected #3 sedimentation basin
- Cleaned filter flume
- Removed finished/filtered basin flapper valve

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR 2019

To be done in 2019

- Lawn Ave Water Main Replacement
- Main St Water Main Replacement (Hunt St to East End Ave)
- Misc. Distribution System Gate Valve Replacements
- Engineering Report on Pressure Reducing Valve Operation
- Lower Reservoir Dam Repairs & Improvements
- Engineering Design for Wilber Lake Dam Repairs & Improvements
- WTP SCADA Upgrade
- WTP Fluoridation Equipment Upgrade
- WTP Chlorine Metering Pump Replacement
- WTP MIOX Rate Control Valves
- WTP UV 254 Analyzer
- WTP Backwash Control Valves Replacement
- Filtered Water Tank Ladder Replacement
- Roofing for generator set
- HFS System Upgrade
- Rewire Hubbell Water Heaters
- Rewire PACI transfer pump and backup chlorinator

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. 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.

LOCATIONS OF 2018 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE CITY HALL, 258 MAIN STREET, ONEONTA, NY

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, 110 EAST STREET, ONEONTA, NY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, 76 SILAS LANE, ONEONTA, NY