



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2005
Town of Niskayuna
One Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna, NY 12309
(Public Water Supply Identification Number NY4600073)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Niskayuna issues an annual 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 drinking water met all State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of our drinking water quality for the year 2005. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to New York State standards. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We strive to improve our water treatment process and to protect our water resources.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water please contact *Richard Pollock, Superintendent of Water and Sewer, 386-4520*. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. They are held most Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the *Town Hall*.

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. Similarly for bottled water, State Health Department and FDA regulations establish limits to provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is groundwater from two aquifers. In 2005, 33% of our water was drawn from wells located near the Mohawk River in the Town of Niskayuna. 67% was drawn from the City of Schenectady wells located in the Town of Rotterdam near the Mohawk River. During 2005, our system did not experience any water source restrictions.

The water is purified naturally as it percolates through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. When the "raw water" is pumped from the aquifer, it is further treated and disinfected prior to distribution. Treatment at the Niskayuna Water Plant consists of gas chlorination to oxidize iron and manganese and to disinfect the water, pressure sand filtration to remove iron and manganese, fluoridation at low levels to protect teeth, and injection of poly-orthophosphate to control corrosion. The City's treatment process is nearly identical with one exception; there is no pressure sand filtration because their raw water has very little iron and manganese.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves about 20,295 people through 7,461 service connections. The total water produced in 2005 was 1.2 billion gallons; 381,687,000 gallons was produced at the Niskayuna Water Plant and 774,445,000 was purchased from the City of Schenectady. Our "average daily demand" was 3.1 million gallons per day (MGD). Our highest single day was 7.7 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 956,683,403 gallons. This left an unaccounted for total of 189,831,002 gallons (17% of the total amount produced and purchased). This water was used to backwash filters at the Water Plant, flush mains and fight fires. Some was lost through leakage and some was "lost" through inaccurate/slow water meters.

In 2005, "single family residential" water customers were charged \$1.60 per 1,000 gallons of water plus an annual \$55.00 fixed water charge. All other customers were charged the commercial rate of \$2.21 per 1,000 gallons with no fixed water charge.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

In accordance with State regulations, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous potential contaminants including: inorganic compounds, radiological contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. In addition, we test 20 samples per month for coliform bacteria. The enclosed table 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 typically change little from year to year. Some of the data, though representative, is more than one year old.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate 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 Schenectady County Health Department at (518) 386-2818.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As illustrated in the table, our monitoring and testing detected some contaminants; however, with the exception of copper and one lead test, all other contaminants were below the maximum levels permitted by the State, known as the maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Many of the test results were **NOT DETECTABLE**. The type/group (number of contaminants in each group) tested for were as follows: volatile organic compounds (52)+MTBE, synthetic organic compounds (38), asbestos, color, radiological chemicals (4). The inorganic contaminants tested for were: iron, manganese, zinc, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, mercury, silver, zinc, selenium, antimony, beryllium, thallium, nickel and cyanide. Similarly, for the City of Schenectady many of the test results were **NON DETECTABLE**. The type/group (number of contaminants in each group) tested for were as follows: volatile organic compounds (52)+MTBE, synthetic organic compounds (38), asbestos, color, radiological chemicals (4) microbiological contaminants (1). The inorganic contaminants tested for were: iron, zinc, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, mercury, silver, zinc, selenium, antimony, beryllium, thallium, nickel and cyanide.

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 microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHAT IS THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)?

To emphasize the protection of surface and ground water sources used for public drinking water, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1996. The amendments require that New York State Department of Health’s Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection be responsible for ensuring that source water assessments are completed for all of New York’s public water systems.

A source water assessment provides information on the potential contaminant threats to public drinking water sources:

- ◆ Each source water assessment will: determine where water used for public drinking water comes from (delineate the source areas)
- ◆ Inventory potential sources of contamination that may impact public drinking water sources
- ◆ Assess the likelihood of a source water area becoming potential contaminated

SWAP summaries for our water supply and the City of Schenectady’s water supply are attached to this report.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, it is still important to conserve water. Saving water saves energy required to pump water and reduces the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers. You can conserve water by:

- ◆ *Using water saving showerheads*
- ◆ *Repairing all leaks in your plumbing system; leaking toilets can waste 100 GPD*
- ◆ *Watering your lawn sparingly in the early morning or in the late evening*
- ◆ *Doing only full loads of wash and dishes*
- ◆ *Washing your car with a bucket and hose with a nozzle*
- ◆ *Not cutting the lawn too short; longer grass saves water.*

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off taps and water using appliances; then check the meter after 15 minutes; if it moves, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2005, the following improvements were made in the water system:

- ◆ A master flowmeter was installed at the Niskayuna Water Treatment Plant. The flowmeter will be used to more accurately measure the total water produced from the Town wells.
- ◆ The electric service to the Town’s Water District #3 Pumpstation was upgraded to allow for more reliable operation of the station.
- ◆ The aging office building at the Town’s Water Treatment Plant was replaced with a new modular office building.
- ◆ To increase production, redevelopment work was begun on six of the Town’s wells.

In 2006, the Town intends to modernize the Town’s water distribution system by replacing existing obsolete electronic controls with a modern control system. The well redevelopment work begun in 2005 will be completed. The three large pumps at the Town’s Water Treatment Plant, responsible for delivering water to the residents, will be rebuilt.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to provide your family with quality water this past year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. Please call our office if you have questions.

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA TEST RESULTS Public Water Supply Identification Number NY4600073						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform ¹ (samples from 6/7/05 & 9/20/05)	N	2 positive samples	N/A	0	Any positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants (sample data from 2/8/05 unless otherwise noted)						
Barium	N	35	ppb	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	N	85	ppm	N/A	250	Geology; Naturally occurring
Copper (samples from June-July 2004)	N	800 ²	ppb	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Range of copper concentrations		50-1280				
Fluoride	N	590	ppb	N/A	2200	Water additive which promotes strong teeth

Lead (samples from June-July 2004) Range of lead concentrations	N	4 ³ ND-6	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
pH	N	6.9	units		6.5-8.5	
Sodium ⁴	N	47.8	ppm	N/A	N/A	Geology; Road Salt
Sulfate	N	29	ppm	N/A	250	Geology;
Disinfection Byproducts (sample data from 2/8/05, 5/10/05, 8/9/05 & 11/9/05)						
Chlorine (average) (based on daily samples) Range of chlorine residuals	N	1.0 0.8-1.5	ppm	MRDLG N/A	MRDL 4	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ⁵ Range of values for HAA5	N	10.1 6.0-9.6	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes](Average) ⁵ Range of values for TTHM	N	24 20-31	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

NOTES-

1. A violation occurs at systems collecting less than 40 samples per month when two or more samples are total coliform positive in one month. Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially –harmful, bacteria may be present
2. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 30 test sites. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 30 sites tested
3. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 30 test sites. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 30 sites tested
4. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets; Water containing more than 270 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on moderately restricted sodium diets.
5. The average is based on a running annual average

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

90th Percentile Value- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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

N/A-Not applicable

**CITY OF SCHENECTADY TEST RESULTS
Public Water Supply identification Number 4600070**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants (sample data from 2/25/02 unless otherwise noted)						
Barium (sample from 3/14/05)	N	21	ppb	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	N	42	ppm	N/A	250	Geology; Naturally occurring
Fluoride (sample from 3/14/05)	N	924	ppb	N/A	2200	Water additive which promotes strong teeth;
Manganese	N	20	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (sample from 4/19/04)	N	0.629	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
pH	N	7.1	units		6.5-8.5	
Sodium ¹	N	21.5	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally Occurring, Road salt
Sulfate	N	28	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally Occurring,
Disinfection Byproducts (sample data from 3/14/2005)						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ² Range of values for HAA5	N	6.0	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (Average) ²	N	8.3	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (average) (based on daily samples) Range of chlorine residuals	N	0.8-0.9	ppm	MRDLG	MRDL	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
				N/A	4	

NOTES-

1. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets; Water containing more than 270 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on moderately restricted sodium diets.
2. The average is based on a running annual average

Niskayuna Consolidated Water District # 1
PWSID# NY4600073
Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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. The section of the report entitled, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" provides a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned earlier in this report, our drinking water is derived from 7 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The Niskayuna Consolidated Water District recognizes the importance of watershed protection by implementing Watershed Rules and Regulations along with zoning restrictions.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, at the number provided in the annual report.

Schenectady City
PWSID# NY4600070
Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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. The section of the report entitled, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" provides a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned earlier in this report, our drinking water is derived from 11 drilled wells, The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge from commercial facilities that are regulated by the state. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The City of Schenectady recognizes the importance of watershed protection by implementing Watershed Rules and Regulations along with zoning restrictions.

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