

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016

Colden Water District #1

8812 State Rd

Colden, NY 14033

(Public Water Supply ID#1450020)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Colden Water District #1, 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 Water Clerk Ronald Smith at 716-941-5012 or Councilman Gerald Pietraszek at 716-941-5012. 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 on the second Thursday of each month, at 7PM at the Town Hall on Rte. 240. If you have any questions regarding water services and or billing please visit the Colden Water District office located in the town hall, on Wednesdays from 08:30AM to 4:00 PM. Phone 716-941-5012 for appointments on days other than Wednesdays. We have two part time workers servicing the District. They are Ron Smith, Water Clerk and Greg Adams, Class D Operator who deals with all physical aspects of the Water District.

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.

The Colden Water District serves about 213 connections. Our water source is the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) water tower on Wohlhueter Rd, in the town of Boston. The Town of Colden purchases water at this point from the Water Authority, through a bulk purchase agreement. Water is then brought into town through a water line along Lower East Hill Road and finally distributed to our District customers.

The Erie County Water Authority obtains its water from two sources. The Authority's Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant, in the Town of Evans, draws water from Lake Erie to supply southern Erie County and communities in Cattaraugus County. The Van De Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants deliver an average of 65 million gallons a day to more than one half million people in Western New York. In each plant, the water is rigorously treated, then sent through the Authority's extensive distribution system where it eventually enters the Water Tower on Wohlhueter Road in the Town of Boston. Finally, the water is tested again by the Town of Colden on a regular schedule for chlorine residuals and for bacteria. The Erie County Water Authority does issue an Annual Water Quality Report each year. Their 2016 AWQR will be available for review and is available in electronic form at www.ecwa.org. If you have any questions regarding this report, please submit your requests to questionscomments@ecwa.org

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, Erie County Water routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: microbiological compounds such as total coliform and E.coli bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds such as nitrate and lead, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and radiological compounds. Attached to this report is a “2016 Water Quality Monitoring Report – Annual Water Quality Report Supplement”, prepared by the Erie County Water Authority. The tables presented depict which compounds were tested for and which compounds were detected or not detected in your drinking water. The State allows testing for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the 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 Erie County Health Department at 716-961-6800.

As the State regulations require, we have tested your drinking water for the following contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, copper and lead, total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. As noted below there were no detections of coliform in any of the monthly samples we collected through 2016. The annual Total Trihalomethanes test was slightly above the MCL on Aug. 16, 2016. Lines were flushed, system was retested and monitoring was then upgraded to quarterly checks. Additionally, there were no exceedances for copper or for lead in the last residential sampling done in August 2015. All of the copper and lead samples tested, fell under the respective action levels for copper and lead. The Colden Water District is planning future sampling for lead and copper in July of 2020. Additionally, the Colden Water District was issued a waiver regarding the sampling for asbestos in our system. This waiver expires on December 31, 2024, because our system was constructed without the use of asbestos containing materials.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg Max Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectants							
Chlorine Residual	No	Every Day	0.6 ² 0.21-1.36	mg/l	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Microbiologic							
Coliform	No	08/12/2016	One sample positive For total coliform	N/A	0	Two or more samples are positive	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

Inorganics							
Copper	No	07/29/2015	450 ¹ ND - 720	ug/l	1300	AL = 1300	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	07/28/2015	7.1 ¹ ND - 7.5	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts							
<u>Total Trihalomethanes</u>	No	08/13/2016 11/17/2016	97.4 19.1	ug/l	N/A	80 ug/l * ³	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Chloroform Bromoform Bromodichloromethane Dibromochloromethane							
<u>Total Haloacetic Acids</u>	No	08/13/2016 11/17/2016	41.9 19.1	ug/l	N/A	60 ug/l	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Monochloroacetic Dichloroacetic Trichloroacetic Monobromoacetic Dibromoacetic							

Notes:

1 - During 2016 we collected and analyzed 5 water samples for copper and lead. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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.

2 - The value noted is the average for the entire year of sampling. The range varies depending on the amount of chlorine originally injected by the Erie County Water Authority.

3 - The annual Total Trihalomethanes test was above the MCL on Aug. 16, 2015 which required monitoring be upgraded to quarterly. A MCL violation is based on the average from four quarters of sampling.

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.

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).

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.

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 had been detected. However, additional testing showed these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

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 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.

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 at 716-941-5012 if you have questions.