

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2011

*Colden Water District #1
8812 State Road
(Public Water Supply ID# 1450020)
MAY 2012*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Colden Water District 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, 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 **Ms. Kimberly Reichert, District Water Clerk or Mr. Gerald Pietraszek, Councilman, at 941-5022**. 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. The meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, at 7 PM at the Town Hall on Rte. 240.

If you have any questions regarding water services and or billing issues please visit the Colden Water District office which is located in the Town Hall and can be visited on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30pm and 1:30 to 4:30pm, and on Thursday from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The phone number is (716) 941-5012. We have two part-time workers serving the District. They are Ms. Kimberly Reichert, Water Clerk and Mr. Ray Wozniak, Class D Operator, who deals with all of the physical aspects of the 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 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 provides water to approximately 202 service connections. Our water source is the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) water tower on Wohlhueter Road 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 2011 AWQR is now 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, your drinking water is routinely tested 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 "2011 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. As noted below there were no detections of Coliform in any of the monthly samples we collected through 2011. Additionally, there were no exceedences for copper or for lead in the last residential sampling round in August 2011. All of the copper and lead samples tested, fell under the respective action levels for copper and lead.

CHLORINE RESIDUALS

In addition to contaminant testing, the Colden Water District also performs daily chlorine residual sampling to provide an indication of the proper amount of chlorination present within the water system. The presence or chlorine residual in drinking water indicates that: 1) a sufficient amount of chlorine was added initially to the water to inactivate the bacteria and some viruses that cause diarrheal disease; and 2) the water is protected from recontamination during storage.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform	No	Monthly	ND	Total/100 ml	NE	>5% of samples positive	Naturally present in environment
Copper	No	8/2011	.370 ¹ <.020-.470	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	8/2011	.004 ¹ <.001-.004	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Chlorine Residual							
Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Detected (Avg./Max) (Range)	Unit of Measure	MRDL	MRDLG	Source of Parameter
Residual Chlorine	No	Daily	.479 ² .02-1.84	mg/l	NE	NE	Erie County Water Authority

Notes:

1 - During 2011 we collected and analyzed 5 water samples, from various locations, for copper and lead. The upper value included in the table represents the average of the two highest levels detected. The lower value is the range of detections. The action level for copper and lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

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

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).

Milliliters (ml): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

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.

NE: Not Established.

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 have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. 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. The Erie County Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2011, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. The Colden Water District #1 will continue to provide the residents of Colden with the safest drinking water through reliable and efficient service which meet all guidelines and standards.

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.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Please remember to watch for the metal house valve covers which are typically found in your lawn and for the metal hydrant valve covers typically found within 10 feet of each hydrant. Please be careful when mowing grass or plowing snow to avoid damage to these covers. If you should notice excessive water in your lawn area or along the path of the main waterline (which runs between the yellow hydrants), please report this to the Water Department or the Town Clerk.

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 if you have questions.