Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2024
Town of Warwick Hillside Water
(Rural Atlantic Water Co.)
132 Kings Highway Warwick, NY 10990
(Public Water Supply ID# 3503565)

Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of Warwick 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. 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 Town of Warwick at 132 Kings Highway Warwick, NY 10990, or by phone at 845-986-1124. 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 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 Departments 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 a groundwater well: groundwater drawn from a deep drilled well. The water is pumped from the well to the treatment facility where it undergoes a two-stage filtration process, then chlorine is added for the purpose of disinfection as it is transferred to the chlorine contact tanks, then pressurized through a v.f.d. driven pump system, which maintains the distribution pressure. Our water system serves approximately 75 persons (23 homes).

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. See "Table of Detected Contaminants" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from a drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of the septic system that is located in the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area can be obtained by contacting us, as noted in this report.

Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants including: total coliform, total organic carbon, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The attached 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 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 Orange County Health Department at 291-2331.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average/Max) (Range)	Units	MCL G	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	4/3/24	1.3	mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	2/3/22	0.0035	mg/l	2	MCL = 2	Discharge of drilling wastes
Fluoride	No	2/3/22	0.29	mg/l	N/A	MCL = 2.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	No	8/28/24	1.53	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Radium	No	4/18/23	1.35	pCi/l	0	MCL = 5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	No	4/18/23	1.16	ug/l	0	MCL = 30	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead*	No	7/31/24	90^{th} % = 15.4 Range = ND – 22.4	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper*	No	7/31/24	90^{th} % = 0.267 Range = 0.0035 – 0.305	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	2/7/24	1.24	ng/l	N/A	MCL = 10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications

* The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 samples collected. The action level for both lead and copper was not exceeded. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
* There were 5 Lead and Copper samples taken throughout the distribution system.

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).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

What does this information mean?

As you can see by our table our system had no violations for 2024. 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 not exceeded in any of the five samples collected in 2024. 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. Hillside water is iresponsible 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 2024, our system was in compliance with state drinking water operations, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Although our drinking water now meets or exceeds 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 system operation.
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water tanks; 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 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. To maximize economy, it is best to run full loads.
- 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 up 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.
- Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check if you can hear any water running.

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. During 2023 some substantial improvements were made to our drinking water system. A filtration system was installed that will allow us to utilize both wells. The costs of these improvements will be partially defrayed by the capital escrow account to which you have contributed. As a result, the capital charge may be reimposed in future billings. It is not anticipated that a rate adjustment will be necessary in order to address these improvements as the escrow account appears to be adequate and the well and tanks are in good repair. We have experienced some issues with the service lines which have been repaired without the need for service interruption. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

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