

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016  
Edmeston Water District #1  
1 North St. EDMESTON N.Y.  
(Public Water Supply ID#38001474)

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Edmeston Water District #1 advisory committee 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 standards. We are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. Last year, we conducted tests for over 60 contaminants. Of those we only found 4 contaminants and none at a level higher than the State allows. 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 Edmeston Town Clerk at 965-9823. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please contact the Edmeston Town Clerk and a Water Advisory Committee member will follow up your question/concern.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the resources 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 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 system serves 490 people through 200 service connections. Our water source is considered ground water. It originates from two spring systems located about two miles west of the hamlet center near county Rte. 20. The upper springs are located adjacent to the former Waite Farm. Prior to distribution water is collected in a reservoir it is treated with a state of the art chlorination system. The water is transmitted in underground piping in a wide sweeping arc to the southern edge of the hamlet. Gravity continues to push the water uphill to a 25,000 gallon main reservoir at the western edge of the hamlet. (Along the route of this transmission line, some customers receive their water before it reaches the reservoir.) From the reservoir, water is distributed to the remaining customers in the water district. The district can also receive water under extreme draught conditions from an adjacent well: a chlorinator will add additional dosages of chlorine according to the water volume.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes and synthetic organic compounds. 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, through 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 Oneonta District Office Health Department at 432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulation Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contaminants
TOTAL THM	No	8/18/2016	0.00175				
Sodium	No	04/14/10	12mg/l		N/A	No designated limits	
CHLORIDE	No	04/14/10	33.6				
Barium	No	6/8/2015	0.013mg/l		2mg/l	2mg/l	Discharge of drilling water, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
THALLIUM		07/14/10	0.002				
Nitrate	No	2/8/16	0.689mg/l		10mg/l	10mg/l	Run off from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks sewage; erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL		2/7/2014	0.0006				
Copper	No	8/12-16/2016	0.087		1/3mg/l	1/3mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood deposits
Lead	No	8/12-16/2016	0.002		.015mg/l	.015mg/l	
RADIUM226		AVERA	0.05PCI				
RADIUM228		7/24/2014	0.4PCI				
GROSS ALPHA		7/24/2014	1.7PCI				
CYANIDE		04/14/10	0.007				
SULFATE		04/14/10	6.53				
IRON		04/14/10	0.01				
ARSENIC		12/21/12	0.0045				
TOTAL HAA		8/18/2016	0.0011				

#### Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminants 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 Contaminants 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.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** W 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 (part per billion – ppb).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (part 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 the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

### **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 the level allowed by the State.

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2010, 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 fire fighting 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 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family/business 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.

**Edmeston Water District #1  
NY38001474  
AWQR Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The State source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contaminants and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurfaces to the wells.

The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contaminants of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are not considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high/medium-high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of pasture within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

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

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