

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2005*  
*Edmeston Water District #1*  
*1 North St. Edmeston, NY 13335*  
*(Public Water Supply ID# 3800147 )*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the 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 health standards. As we told you at that time, on October 03, 2005 our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we rectified the problem by verifying that sample results from multiple taps within the hamlet met state drinking water health standards for two consecutive days. 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 the Edmeston Town Clerk at (607) 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 your question/concern will be followed up by a Water Advisory Committee member.

## **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.

Our water system serves approximately 490 people through 200 service connections. Our water source is considered groundwater. It originates from two spring systems located about two miles west of the hamlet center near County Route 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. This treated 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 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 water volume.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

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 contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the water sources.

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. 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 a spring collection system. The source water assessment has rated these springs as having a medium susceptibility to microbial and pesticide contamination. These ratings are due to the pasture and row crop land covers in the assessment area. NO permitted discharges or other regulated facilities have been identified in the assessment area.

While the source water assessment rates our springs as being susceptible to microbial, 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.

### 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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. 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 New York State Health Department at 607-432-3911.

#### ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORTS-FEBRUARY 2006

Water System: Edmeston Water District

Our records indicate that the following contaminants have been detected in monitoring results submitted from your water system during the past year. These contaminants are required to be listed in the detected contaminants table in this year's annual water quality report. However, the contaminants listed below may not comprise the entire list of contaminants that must be included with your detected contaminants table. If you were not required to sample for a particular contaminant (or contaminant group) during 2005, contaminants detected from the most recent sample data must continue to be listed in this year's table.

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	SAMPLE LOCATION	RESULT (mg/l)
Nitrate	7/6/2005		1.1

**\*\*The source of each particular contaminant must be included in the table. See DOH template or EPA guidance document for mandated language.**

A template that can be used to prepare this year's annual water quality report is available on the Health Department's webpage at: [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/water/annual\\_water\\_quality\\_report.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/water/annual_water_quality_report.htm) Changes from previous years include: adding the summary of the Source Water Assessment report (provided to you separately); replacing references to 2004 with 2005; the addition of new health effects language for arsenic (only if arsenic has been detected between 25-50 ppb); and new language to address monitoring and reporting violations. We encourage you to use the state template and guidance documents. **A copy of your annual water quality report and certification form must be provided to our office by the specified deadlines.**

**CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL MONITORING SUMMARY - 2006**  
(SMALL SYSTEMS - with ground water sources and serving no more than 500 people)

**WATER SYSTEM:** Edmeston Water District

GW - Ground Water

**FEDERAL ID NO.** NY3800147

Source(s):	Entry Points (EP):
1. Springs	A. Water Treatment Plant
2.	B.
3.	C.
4.	D.

**SERVICES:** 200

**POPULATION:** 480

PLEASE REFER TO THE ENCLOSED CONTAMINANT MONITORING LIST FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EACH CONTAMINANT GROUP NOTED BELOW:

CONTAMINANTS	SAMPLING LOCATIONS	PREVIOUS SAMPLING	2006 REQUIREMENTS	DATES DONE	FUTURE REQUIREMENTS
Annual Water Quality Report	N/A	N/A	Report by May 31 <sup>st</sup> Cert. by Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>		Annual Requirement
Inorganic Chemicals Groups I & II with Sodium & Corrosivity	EP	2004	NONE	N/A	3 yr. Cycle - 2007
Nitrate	EP	2004	ONE		ANNUAL
Lead and Copper	High Risk Sites: 5	missed 2004 missed 2005	SET OF 5 SUMMER 2006		3 yr. Cycle - 2007 missed 04 & '05 sampling
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC)	EP	91, 97, 03	NONE	N/A	6 YR. CYCLE - 2009
Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)	EP	97, 00, 03	ONE		3 YR. CYCLE - 2009
Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids (THM & HAA)	Distribution System (point of max. residence time)	2004	NONE	N/A	3 YR. CYCLE - 2007
Radiological (Combined Radium and Alpha)	EP	2000	NONE	N/A	2009

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

During 2005, 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?**

This section offers an opportunity to educate your customers about water conservation. It is not required but you are encouraged to include it in your report. Example language is provided on page 16 of the guidance document or you can use the following:

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**

You may end your report any way that you wish. Please feel free to modify the following example as appropriate.

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.