

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2012

Heritage Springs Water Works, Incorporated Town of Milton, New York (Public Water Supply ID#NY4522501)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Heritage Springs Water Works 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. A copy of this Annual Report is also available on our web page at www.heritage-springs.com.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (518) 371-7942 during regular business hours. We can also be reached by email at: info@heritage-springs.com, or by writing: HSWW, 900 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065. In the event of an emergency, please call (518) 889-9111.

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Our water sources are groundwater wells; groundwater is withdrawn from seven drilled wells in three different locations. The depth of the wells varies from 58 to 250 feet. We have water sources and water treatment plants (WTP's) that all feed into a common distribution system. The WTP's are known as Deer Run (DR), Milton Oaks (MO) and Kayaderosseras Estates (KE).

At the Deer Run source, water is pumped from three wells into four large concrete storage tanks; the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite as it is transferred to the storage tanks. The water is then drawn from the storage tanks by pumps that transfer it into the pressurized distribution system.

At the Milton Oaks source, water is pumped, under system pressure, from two wells through a 3,000 gallon contact tank that is connected directly to the distribution system. As with Deer Run, the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite as it is pumped through the tank.

Our third water source, Kayaderosseras Estates, is similar to Milton Oaks in that water is pumped from one of two wells, under system pressure, through a 3,020 gallon contact tank connected to the distribution system. As with the other sources, the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite as it is pumped into the contact tank. Due to elevated concentrations of iron, the Kayaderosseras Estates water must be treated prior to the addition of the sodium hypochlorite to prevent a reaction (oxidation) that creates an orange precipitate, leading to discolored water. The permitted treatment technique (TT) is called sequestration, which is the addition of a polyphosphate chemical that prevents oxidation of the iron. The chemical used for sequestration is MCT 506, manufactured by Mid-South Chemical, an NSF approved product for use in drinking water.

The New York State Department of Health completed a source water assessment for the Heritage Springs supplies based on available information. The 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 well supplies. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of a given water source; it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. A list of the contaminants detected, if any, are listed in the section entitled "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" The source water assessments provide resource managers with information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to nitrate and herbicide/pesticide contamination. This rating is due primarily to the residential land use and associated activities in the assessment area. Public notification is required if regulated contaminants are ever found in our water.

The State Health Department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and educational programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us as noted in the "Introduction" section of this document.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system currently serves approximately 2,670 people (based on census data) through 1094 service connections. Our service territory includes several residential subdivisions, apartment buildings, a mobile home park, municipal facilities, and businesses.

The residential subdivisions we serve: Deer Run, Coachman Estates, Milton Heights, Milton Oaks, Geyser Gate, Kayaderosseras Estates, Creek View Court, Oak Hill, and Wyndham Way. Other residential facilities served are: three senior citizen apartment buildings, the Saratoga West mobile home park, the Knollwood Hollow senior condominiums, Lancaster Place condominiums, and the Saratoga Winners apartment project. Non-residential facilities served include the Milton Senior's Community Center, the Town of Milton Town Hall and Highway Garage, Burgess Kimball Park, Geyser Gate pavilion, Milton Eagles Fire House, and several businesses on Rowland Street and Geyser Road.

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 bacteria, inorganic compounds, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, mercury, selenium, thallium, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, radiological compounds, 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, 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 Department of Health, Glens Falls Regional Office at (518) 793-3893.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can in the following 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 OPERATION?

During 2012, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

HERITAGE SPRINGS WATER WORKS - 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
Inorganic Contaminants:							
Barium	No	7/28/11	132 @ DR 392 @ MO 68 @ KE	ug/L	2	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	9/14/11	0.063 (ND to 0.173) ²	Mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	No	7/28/11	0.222 @ KE 0.125 @ DR	Mg/l	2.2	MCL 2.2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Iron	No	6/18/10	88 @ KE	ug/l	n/a	MCL=300 ¹	Naturally occurring.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	10/23/12	0.084 @ DR 0.155 @ MO	mg/l	n/a	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection By- products:							
Trihalomethanes (THM's)	No	8/5/10 8/5/10 11/20/12	2.0 @ Birkshire Dr 15 @ Rock City Road 11 @ DR Well #2	ug/l	n/a	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection at treatment plants using hypochlorite solutions.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	8/5/10	ND @ Birkshire Dr 8.0 @ Rock City Road	ug/l	n/a	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection at treatment plants using hypochlorite solutions.
Radiological Contaminants:							
Gross Alpha	No	2005 – 4 Quarters	1.95 @ MO (1.7-2.1)	pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226	No	2005-4 Quarters	0.53 ³ @ MO (0.16 to 1.2)	pCi/l	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits.
	No	2/15/08	0.14 @ DR				
Radium 228	No	2005- 4 quarters	0.40 ³ @ MO (0.0 to 0.9)	pCi/l	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits.
	No	2008 – 4 quarters	0.88 ³ @ DR (0.01 to 2.2)				

Notes:

- 1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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. Ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value of 0.063 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested
- 2 – The levels presented represent the range of the 10 copper samples collected. 3 – This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

Definitions:

DR: Deer Run water source (#01), production well No.'s 1, 2, 3.

MO: Milton Oaks water source (#02), production wells No.'s 1 and 2.

KE: Kayaderosserass Estates water source (#03), production well No. 1.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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.

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.

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

NELAP: National Environmental Laboratory Approval Program.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency.

WTP: Water treatment plant.

ND: Not detected

INFORMATION ON LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Saratoga Lakeview Mobile Home Park Community 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

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 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at (518) 371-7942 if you have questions.

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CURRENT WATER CUSTOMER