

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2004**  
**Town Of Allegany**  
**52 West Main St. Allegany N.Y. 14706**  
**Public Water Supply ID#NY0400331**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Village of Allegany 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 has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 **John Moshier, Water Department at (716)373-0150**. 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 and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Town hall.

## **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 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 source currently consists of three wells. Well#1 is located on north First Street. Well#2 is located on south Seventh Street and Well#3 is located on east Union Street. Each well is at a depth of approximately 50 feet. Wells one and two produce quality water at a rate of 600 gallons per minute. Well three produces quality water at a rate of 650 gallons per minute

Our water system serves 3278 people through 125 service connections in the Town of Allegany.

## **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 table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water during the period January 1,2004 through December 31,2004. 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 Cattaraugus County Health Department at (716) 373-8050.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for our water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking waters sources were evaluated. 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 wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential contamination of the source water. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?" 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 was mentioned before, our water is derived from three wells. The source water assessment has rated the combined susceptibility to contamination for these wells as; very high from enteric bacteria, enteric viruses and nitrates; high from cations/anions (salts, sulfate), halogenated solvents, metals, other industrial organics, petroleum products and protozoa; and medium-high from herbicides/pesticides. These ratings for the wells are due to their proximity to oil and gas wells, sand and gravel mines, pasture lands and permitted discharge facilities (industrial/ commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government). While the assessment rates our sources as being susceptible to enteric bacteria, 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.

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

### Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
(MTBE) Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether Well #1	N	9/08/03	3.5	ug/l	N/A	MCL=10	From underground storage Tanks. Mtbe is an octane Enhancer for unleaded Gasoline.

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium Well#1 Well#2 Well#3	N N N	4/11/03 4/11/03 4/11/03	63 43 63	ug/l	2000	MCL=2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper *	N	5/28/03	660 (70-910)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead **	N	5/19/03	8 (ND-22)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride- treated	N	Daily	900-1100	ug/l	N/A	MCL=2200	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate Well#1 Well#2 Well#3	N N N	8/31/04 8/31/04 8/31/04	2220 3000 953	ug/l	10,000	MCL=10,000	Run off from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Thallium Well#1	N	4/11/00	1	ug/l	0.5	MCL-2	Leaking from ore processing sight; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories
Sulfate Well#1 Well#2 Well#3	N N N	9/09/03 9/09/03 9/09/03	19 20 26	mg/l	200	MCL=200	Naturally occurring
<b>Disinfection By-products</b>							
Total Trihalo- Methanes (THHMs- Chloroform, brono- Dichloromethane, Dibromochloro- Methane and bromo form) - Well#1 - Well#2 - Well#3	N N N	8/09/04 8/09/04 8/09/04	2.4 6.0 3.3	ug/l	n/a	MCL= 80	By-products of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHms are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

Notes:

\*- The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water systems and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value, 660 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

\*\* - The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level for lead was 8 ug/l. One of the ten sites exceeded the action level of 15ug/l.

## **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.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A 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.

## **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. Immune-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 a 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. 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, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

# FACT SHEET

## Village of Allegany Municipal Well

### INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Cattaraugus County Department of Health (CCHD), would like to brief you about groundwater contamination near the intersection of Main Street and North First Street, in the Village of Allegany. Testing has found a gasoline additive in the Village of Allegany's drinking water Well Number One. The well is located near Main Street, between North First and North Second Streets. This well is one of three wells used to provide drinking water to the Village and Town Water District customers.

### BACKGROUND

Previously the NYSDEC, as part of an on-going investigation and remediation of a former ExxonMobil gas station at the intersection of Main and North First Streets, directed the installation and sampling of two groundwater monitoring wells. The wells are located across North First Street from the former station. The sampling results, received on December 3, 2002, found methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a gasoline additive, at levels above State drinking water standards. The NYSDEC quickly notified the CCHD and the Village of the results.

As a precaution, the Village's Well Number One was sampled and the monitoring wells re-sampled on December 5, 2002. MTBE was again detected in the monitoring wells but not in the Village well. The Village well was sampled again on December 9, 2002 by the CCHD. Trace levels (less than 1 part per billion) of MTBE were found in the samples. The State drinking water standard for MTBE is 10 parts per billion. The CCHD received these results on December 12, 2002 and immediately notified the Village and the NYSDEC. The CCHD instructed the Village to stop using the well until the problem was addressed and future sampling shows a decreasing trend of MTBE in the groundwater. This was done to ensure the safety of the drinking water and to prevent the contaminated groundwater from being drawn toward the well. Currently the village continues to use Wells Number Two and Three to provide residents with clean drinking water.

### CURRENT STATUS

The NYSDEC is overseeing an investigation to determine the extent of the MTBE contamination and to clean it up. To do this the Department is working with ExxonMobil, the former owner of a gas station that had previously occupied the site and is a potential source of the contamination. Currently ExxonMobil has:

- installed and sampled a series of monitoring wells to determine what areas are impacted by the contamination;
- examined records and other information to identify possible sources of the contamination;
- excavated and disposed of 558 tons of contaminated soil from the former gas station property; and,
- installed, and is operating, a soil vapor extraction and air sparging remedial system to remove volatile gasoline compounds from subsurface soils and groundwater.

Additional investigation is planned to identify any potential remaining contamination that may be outside the influence of the existing remedial system. Both the monitoring wells and Village of Allegany's Water Well Number One will continue to be sampled on a regular basis to track the trend of MTBE in the groundwater.

### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

The NYSDEC, NYSDOH and the CCHD are committed to keeping you informed about our activities, the ongoing investigation of the contamination and any health issues that may develop.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the spill investigation, please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr. Timothy Dieffenbach  
NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

For related health questions about this spill, please contact the Cattaraugus County Health Department at:

Mr. Eric Wohlers, P.E.  
Director of Environmental Health  
Cattaraugus County Health Department  
1 Leo Moss Drive  
Olean, N.Y. 14760-1154  
(716) 373-8050