

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009***

### ***Town of Allegany***

***52 West Main Street, Allegany, NY 14706***

Allegany Town Comprehensive District - Public Water Supply ID #NY0430102

Allegany Town Consolidated District #1 - Public Water Supply ID #NY0400331

Allegany Town District #3 - Public Water Supply ID #NY0430040

Allegany Town District #8 - Public Water Supply ID #NY0430041

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town 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. 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 **Rodney Gleason, Water Superintendent 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 on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall or visit our web site at [www.Allegany.org](http://www.Allegany.org).

## **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 source is the Village of Allegany. The Village's source is groundwater wells: groundwater drawn from three 70-foot deep drilled wells which are located in three different locations in the village. During 2009, we did not experience any restriction of our water. The water is pumped from the wells into a 1,000,000 gallon storage tank. The water is treated with fluoride and disinfected with chlorine as it is transferred to the storage tank.

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 from the Village of Allegany. 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.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 2000 people through 800 service connections in the Village of Allegany and 2725 through 227 service connections in the Town of Allegany. The total amount of water produced in 2009 was 160 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 439,253 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 841,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 137,503,680 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 22,384,320 gallons. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage, accounts for the remaining 22,384,320 gallons 14% of the total amount produced. In 2009, water customers were charged \$32.90 per 1000 cubic feet of water and the annual average water charge per user was \$56.93.

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, the Village of Allegany routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows them to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the 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.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Sodium -Well #2	N	12/30/08	20.6	mg/L	(See Regulatory Limit)	Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Copper <sup>1</sup> (Village and Town combined)	N	8/18/09 – 8/27/09	142 (38-189)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead <sup>2</sup> (Village and Town Combined)	N	8/18/09 – 8/27/09	4 (1-8)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride- treated	N	Daily	High = 1700 (0 – 1700)	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	9/28/09 9/28/09 9/28/09	4.28 2.65 1.26	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Run off from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion from natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha	N	1/23/07	High Avg. = .57 (.1 – 1.9)	pCi/L	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	N	6/13/07	High Avg. = .05 (.01 – .08)	pCi/L	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	N	8/27/08	High Avg. = .57 (.11 – 1.01)	pCi/L	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	N	8/18/09	High = 1.1 (<1-1.1)	ug/l	n/a	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalo-methanes (THHMs- chloroform, bromo-dichloromethane, dibromochloro-methane and bromo-form)	N	8/18/09	High = 5.3 (.6-5.3)	ug/l	n/a	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 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 at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the third highest value, 142 ug/l. The action level for copper, 1,300 ug/l, was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for lead was 4 ug/l. None of the sites exceeded the action level of 15 ug/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.

**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.

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

**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.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected at values well below the level allowed by the State. We are required to provide 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. The Village of Allegany 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 (1-800-426-4791) 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).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the Village of Allegany before it is delivered to you. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range from 0.8 to 1.2 mg/l (parts per million). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **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 if you have questions.