

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019***  
***Owego Heights***  
***370 Route 96, Owego, NY 13827***  
***Public Water Supply ID#NY5301421***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Owego Heights, 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. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Jon Morris, water operator @ 315-677-5444.

## **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 130 sites and 250 people. Our water source is groundwater drawn from four drilled wells which are located throughout the park. The water is disinfected with liquid chlorine prior to distribution.

## **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, haloacetic acids, radiological 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 Tioga County Health Department at 607-687-8565.

### Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Location	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform bacteria	No	Well 1-4	Jan-Dec 2019	Absent	In 100 mL		0.0	
Free Residual Chlorine	No	Well 1-4	Jan-Dec 2019	NA	mg/L	4	.2	
Nitrate	No	Well 1-4	12/26/19 12/12/19	.05 - 1.08	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (1)	No	Well 1 - 4	1/7/13 1/7/13	7.5 - 12	mg/L	NA	250	See Health effects
THMs & HAAs	No	Well 1-4	8/22/19	Within limits	Mg/L		.06 or .08	Test Method is EPA 524.2
Fluoride	No	Well 1-4	July 2013	.2	Mg/L	NA	2.2	
Bromodichloro methane	No	Well 3	Jan 2013	.8	Ug/L	.5		
Chloroform	No	Well 3	Jan 2013	1.25	Ug/L	.5		
Dibromothlorom ethene	No	Well 3	Jan 2013	.71	Ug/L	.5		
Chromium	No	Well 1 Well 2	Jan 2013	.0015 .0013	Mg/L	.001		Test Method is EPA 200.8
Sodium	No	Well 4	Jan 2013	35	Mg/L	.5		Test Method is EPA 200.7
Copper/Lead	No	Various homes	8/12/16	.021 - .0084	Mg/L	.001		
Volatile Organic Compounds	No	Various homes	12/30/16	Within limits	Ug/L	70-130		
<b>Radiological Contaminates</b>								
Gross Alpha	No	Well 1	2-9-18	Alpha 1.2 Beta 1.4	pCi/L	0	15	Test Method is EPA 900
Radium-226	No	Well 1	2-12-18	.05	pCi/L	0	5*	Test Method is EPA 903 (*5 pCi/L is the regulatory limit for combined Radium 226 & 228)
Radium-228	No	Well 1	2-19-18	.83	pCi/L	0	5*	Test Method is EPA 904
Volatile Organics	No	Well 1-4	July 3 2014	<0.5 ug/L			NELAP	
1	Water containing more the 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more then 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinkiung by people on moderately restricted sodium							

Table of Detected Contaminants								
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Location	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Manganese	No	Well 4	July 13 2017	.136	mg/L	.002	.002 NYVOA	
Iron	No	Well 4	July 13 2017	.06	Mg/L	.0102	.0102 NYVOA	

## DEFINITIONS

**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.

**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 that 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 radioactivity in water.

## 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.

## 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 firefighting 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.

**CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year.