Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2013
Town of Portland, 87 West Main Street, Brocton, NY 14716
Phone (716) 792-1900
Portland Water District
District #3 0621609 District #1, 5, & 7 0630034
District #6 0600807

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations the Town of Portland 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, the Village of Brocton conducted tests for over 50 contaminants. They did detect some of those contaminants but almost all of them were below either the Action Levels of Maximum Contaminant Levels. On 9/25/13 a presence of Coliform bacteria was detected. Five additional samples were subsequently collected after the date the bacteria was detected, Coliform bacteria was **NOT** detected in any of the samples. It should be noted the E. coli, associated with human and animal fecal waste, was not detected in any of the samples collected. The probable source of the Coliform bacteria on 9/25/13 probably came from a contaminated faucet tap and/or sample bottle. This report provides an overview of all the 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 Drew Smith, Portland Water Supervisor at 716-792-1900. 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 Wednesday of each month, @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The phone number of the Town Clerk's Office is 792-9614.

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.

The Town of Portland's drinking water is purchased from the Village of Brocton. Our water system serves approximately 2300 people through 500 residential, and 11 commercial service connections. Our water source is 2 reservoirs, whose main source of water is Slippery Rock Creek. The water is filtered to remove sediment and other contaminants, and then disinfected prior to distribution for added safety.

The New York State Department of Health has evaluated this water supplies susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). Their findings are summarized in the paragraph below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. It does not indicate that any contamination has or will occur. This water supply provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure that the water that is delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards. This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for both the Burr and Slippery Rock Reservoirs. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges in the Slippery Rock watershed, which results in elevated susceptibility for nearly all contaminant categories. However, the total amount of wastewater discharged to surface water in either reservoir area is not high enough to considerably raise the potential for contamination. There are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources. Finally, it should be noted that the hydrologic characteristics (e.g. basin shape & flushing rates) generally make reservoirs highly sensitive to existing and new sources for phosphorus and 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: Halo acetic acids, total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds including pesticides and herbicides. 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 Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4481.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
MICROBIIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Turbidity[1]	No	7/3/13	0.37 NTU	NTU	TT=<1.0 NTU	N/A	Soil Run-off
Turbidity[1]	No	July	100% <0.3	NTU	TT=95% of samples <0.3NTU	N/A	Soil Run-off
Total Coliform	Yes	9/25/13	1 positive Sample	N/A	MCL=1 or More positive samples in 1 month	0	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Lead2	No	06/15/11	6.96; Range ND-6.96	ug/l	15 (AL)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural Deposits
Copper2	No	06/15/11	0.0633; Range ND-0.0891	mg/l	1.3 (AL)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Barium	No	01/30/13	0.042	mg/l	2.0 (MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion or natural deposits
Nitrate	No	01/30/13	0.3	mg/l	10 (MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
aloacetic Acids	No	Quarterly 1st 2nd 3rd (2013)	Avg. = 17.04	ug/l	60 (MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalo-methanes	No	Quarterly 1sr 2nd 3rd (2013)	Avg. = 39.13	ug/l	80 (MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the

effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 7/3/13(0.37 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Although July 2013 was the month with the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2-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 lead values detected in your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and to 90th percentile value is calculated to be between the17th and 19th highest value. The action level for lead was not exceeded in any of the 20 sampling locations.

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.

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.

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).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN

The table shows that the Village of Brocton system uncovered a problem this year. The table shows that a MCL violation for Total Coliform bacteria. Brocton detected the presence of the bacteria on 9/25/13. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria were found in more samples that allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Five additional samples were subsequently collected after the date, the bacteria were detected. Total Coliform was **NOT** detected in any of those samples. It should be noted the E coli associated with human and animal fecal waste was not detected in any of the samples collected. The probable source of Total Coliform on this occasion probably came from a contaminated faucet tap and/or a sample bottle. The Village of Brocton will continue to improve their water treatment facilities so as to provide the highest of quality drinking water possible.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

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

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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 FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Spanish

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda

bien.

French

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

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 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. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. The Town of Portland is currently performing a water meter improvement program. The new meters will help the Town become more efficient in water management and conservation. The new meters will be able to conserve water by pinpointing leaks and pressure problems by analyzing the water usage data. The meter replacements are being done by districts, if you have received a letter from the water department and have not yet scheduled an appointment please call 716-785-1572. Your cooperation is appreciated. 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. The Town of Portland Board is also reviewing the regional water system currently proposed by Chadwick Bay. We very much appreciate your continued understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Drew Smith-Portland Water Supervisor
And
Portland Town Board

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employee"