

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015

Village of Altamont

115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009

Public Water Supply Identification Number NY0100190

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Altamont 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 is 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 New York State standards. Our constant goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. If you have any questions concerning this report or concerning your drinking water please contact: *Mr. Larry Adams, Water Treatment Plant Operator, Village of Altamont, PO Box 643, 115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009; Telephone (518) 861-6913.* We want our valued customers to be informed about their water service. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. They are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Village Offices, 115 Main Street, Altamont, NY 12009; *Telephone (518) 861-8554.* If you want to learn more, please call us.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Village of Altamont draws its water from ground water sources. The ground water supply located at Gun Club Road consists of one drilled well with a yield of 250 gallons per minute. Also, there are two wells at our Brandle Road Pumphouse. Groundwater or well water is stored below the surface of the earth in deep, porous soil called "aquifers." Groundwater is purified naturally as it filters through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. This process, known as "percolation" takes years to complete. As a result, groundwater requires less treatment than surface water. This water is also chlorinated to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria or other organisms. We also add an ortho-phosphate corrosion inhibitor to minimize lead and copper concentrations in the water supply. The water is then pumped into several storage tanks with a total capacity of 1,040,000 gallons. The storage tanks are necessary to meet consumer demand and provide adequate fire protection.

The Village also has an emergency backup surface water supply which consists of the Upper Altamont Reservoir, which has a 9,000,000-gallon capacity, and the Main Lower Reservoir, which holds 27,000,000 gallons. Both reservoirs are located in the Town of Knox. This water is treated at the Filter House by filtration through diatomaceous earth filters and chlorinated to provide disinfection.

The source water assessment performed by the New York State Health Department has rated our Gun Club Road groundwater source as having an elevated susceptibility to bacteria, viruses and protozoa from septic systems and the reservoir source water as having potential for protozoa and pesticide contamination. The SWAP summary for our water supply is attached to this report. It should be noted that the SWAP looks at the untreated water only. Our water is treated to minimize the potential sources of contamination.

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 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.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Village provides water through 830 service connections to a population of approximately 2,000 people. Our average daily demand is 194,000 gallons. Our single highest day was 358,000 gallons. The total water produced in 2015 was 80,276,996 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 68,824,386 gallons. We determined that 18% (14,452,610 gallons) of the water produced is non-revenue producing water. This is water lost due to main breaks, firefighting, hydrant flushing, and hydrant use by Village trucks, distribution system leaks and unauthorized use. The average charge per thousand gallons of water is \$5.17.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

In accordance with State regulations, the Village of Altamont routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for inorganic contaminants, radiological contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, and synthetic organic contaminants. In addition, we test 2 samples for coliform bacteria each month. The table presented below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old and is noted.

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 pose 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 Albany County Health Department at (518) 447-4620.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these compounds were detected below New York State requirements. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The Village of Altamont feeds an ortho-phosphate corrosion inhibitor to minimize lead and copper concentrations in the water supply. The corrosion inhibitor has been effective in reducing the lead and copper levels. The orthophosphate also has a tendency to soften the minerals that have built up on the inside of our water mains over decades of operation. Sometimes the softened minerals can break away from the pipe wall causing localized discoloration of the water. While this is not a health concern, it can be aesthetically undesirable. Over time, occurrences of discoloration will lessen.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2015, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

SOURCE WATER RESTRICTIONS

The surface water reservoirs were removed from daily operation and placed on emergency standby status.

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 microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. The Village of Altamont 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>

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

The Village of Altamont encourages water conservation. There are a lot of things you can do to conserve water in your own home. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when there is a full load.
- ◆ Use water saving showerheads.
- ◆ Install faucet aerators in the kitchen and the bathroom to reduce the flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ◆ Water gardens and lawns according to local regulations.
- ◆ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair all leaks promptly.
- ◆ Take shorter showers.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

- ◆ During 2015, no significant changes were made to the water system.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our customers. 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.

**Village of Altamont
NY0100190
Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a Source Water Assessment for the Village of Altamont's well. Possible and actual contaminant threats to your well were evaluated. The 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. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination. It does not mean that the water delivered to your home is or will become unsafe to drink. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" of this report, for information concerning low levels of contaminants in your water.

The sensitivity of an aquifer is based on geology, which influences how rapidly groundwater moves and how likely a contaminant could reach a well. The aquifer that Altamont draws its water from is considered a high yield aquifer. Contaminants, if present, can move relatively quickly in high yield aquifers. Therefore, this well has been assigned a high sensitivity rating. The potential impact of a chemical or microbes on a well (Susceptibility) is based on aquifer sensitivity, proximity of potential contaminant sources and chemical or biological characteristics of the contaminant.

The assessment has determined that the Village's well is susceptible to bacteria, viruses and protozoa from septic systems. The assessment treated Altamont's waste water treatment plant, near the well, as a septic system. The Village's plant discharges into the Bozen Kill, which flows away from the well. Additionally, the plant's effluent is disinfected. It is unlikely that the plant will cause microbial contamination. If microbes did reach the well, the disinfection of the well water would eliminate them.

The assessment has also determined that the well is susceptible to various chemicals, including petroleum products. Gasoline and other fuels can originate from leaking storage tanks. Underground tanks are of particular concern. The other chemicals could come from accidental spills at one of the small commercial facilities in the Village. These chemicals could also originate from an overturned truck or train derailment. These events are unlikely.

**Altamont Reservoir
Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a Source Water Assessment for Altamont's Reservoir. The assessment is summarized below. The assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of

contamination and how likely contaminants could enter the reservoir. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination. It does not mean that the water delivered to your home is or will become unsafe to drink. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" of this report, for information concerning low levels of contaminants in your water.

This assessment found the amount of agricultural lands in the reservoir's assessment area results in a potential for protozoa and pesticide contamination. There are no other notable contamination threats. It should be noted that hydrologic characteristics (e.g. basin shape and flushing rates) generally make reservoirs sensitive to existing and new sources of phosphorus and microbial contamination.

A copy of the full Source Water Assessments, including a map of the assessment area, is available for review by contacting us at the number provided in this report.

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS
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Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13	N	28.8	ppb	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (Brandle Rd. Wells) 8/6/13	N	32	ppm	N/A	250	Geology; Naturally occurring
Chloride (Gun Club Rd. Wells) (6/7/11)		62				
Copper (sample data from 9/19/14-9/22/14)	N	1020 ¹	ppb	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Range of copper concentration		120-770				
Iron (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13	N	60	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Iron (Gun Club Rd. Wells) from 6/7/11		80				
Lead (samples from 9/19/14-9/22/14)	N	1 ²	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Range of lead concentration		ND-1				
Manganese (Brandle Rd. Wells) 6/16/15)	N	0.37 ³	ppb	N/A	300	Geology; Naturally occurring
Nickel (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13	N	7.6	ppb	N/A	N/A	Geology; Naturally occurring
Nickel (Gun Club Rd Well) from 6/7/11)	N	1.6	ppb	N/A	N/A	
Nitrate as N (Gun Club Rd. Wells) from 8/20/15	N	0.836	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Odor (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13	N	2	units	N/A	3	Organic or inorganic pollutants originating from municipal and industrial waste discharges: natural sources
Odor (Gun Club Rd. Wells) from 6/7/11)		1			6.5-8.5	
pH (Brandle Rd. Wells) 8/6/13)	N	7.4	units			
pH (Gun Club Rd. Wells) (6/7/11)		7.0				
Sodium ⁴ (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13)	N	29.4	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally Occurring, Road salt
Sodium ⁴ (Gun Club Rd. Wells) from 6/7/11)		41.8				
Sulfate (Brandle Rd. Wells) from 8/6/13)	N	55	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally Occurring,
Sulfate (Gun Club Rd. Wells) from 6/7/11)		28				
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (samples from 8/20/15)						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	18	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Range of Values for HAA5						
TTHM[Total Trihalomethanes]	N	24.9	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Range of values for Total Trihalomethanes						
Chlorine (average) [daily samples]	N	1.45	ppm	MRDLG	MRDL	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water
Range		0.7-2.2		4	4	

FOOTNOTES-

1. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 12 test sites. The action level for copper was exceeded at any 1 of the 12 sites tested.
2. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 12 test sites. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 12 sites tested.
3. When Iron and Manganese are both present the MCL is 500 ppb. The state allows levels higher than the MCL when there are no problems such as discoloration and staining of plumbing fixtures, we control iron and manganese through the addition of an orthophosphate inhibitor.
4. Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets.

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

90th Percentile Value- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. 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 and copper values detected at your water system.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

N/A-not applicable