

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2012
Roxbury Water District
Town of Roxbury
P.O. Box 189
Roxbury, New York 12474
Public Water Supply ID #1200269

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, [Roxbury Water District](#) 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 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 State standards. We are pleased to provide you with this information because informed customers are our best customers. 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 **the Roxbury Water District Operator, Philip Nikolaus, at (518) 231-2381**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Town Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m.

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 625 people through 250 service connections. Additionally, in August 2003, our system began providing water for the Grand Gorge Water District. Our water source consists of upland springs and a two shallow gravel wells. The spring source is composed of four groups of springs with a total of 13 individual springs. The springs are piped together and are chlorinated, and then pH adjusted (for corrosion control) prior to discharge into the storage tank. During 2008 the New York State Health Department declared our springs to be Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI). Due to this declaration our springs were disconnected in March of 2009 and are currently being evaluated for rehabilitation and future use. The well source (Well No. 1) is now the primary source for our water and is automatically controlled based on the water level in the storage tank. An auxiliary/emergency well (Well No. 2) exists and is being maintained in good working order, so as to provide a back up to Well No. 1. Currently, the only treatment provided at each of the Well sources is disinfection with chlorine, and due to the corrosive nature of the well water, corrosion control with zinc orthophosphate.

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](#), [lead and copper](#), [volatile organic compounds](#), [synthetic organic compounds](#) and [radiological pollutants](#). 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 Oneonta District Health Department at (607) 432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity	No	5/20/02	1.4	NTU	5	See footnote (1)	Soil runoff.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	4/25/08 7/28/08 11/6/08	0.67 +/- 0.51 (-0.42-1.28)	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined radium – 226 and 228	No	10/07/10	2.08 (1.29 – 3.51)	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganics –Nitrate							
Nitrate	No	11/1/12	0.80	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganics							
Copper	No	4/17/12 11/30/12	1.17 1.02 See footnote (3)	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	No	4/17/12 11/30/12	0.044 0.003 See footnote (3)	mg/l	0	0.15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	10/07/10	0.04	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	No	9/29/08	2.1	ug/l	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	10/07/10	13	mg/l	N/A	See footnote (2)	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.

Sulfate	No	10/07/10	5.2	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
Chloride	No	10/07/10	17	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Zinc	No	10/07/10	0.087	mg/l	N/A	5	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Iron	No	9/2/10	123	ug/l	N/A	300	Naturally occurring.
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Methylene Chloride	No	7/07/04	0.68	ug/l	N/A	5	Used as a solvent in paint strippers, as a propellant in aerosols, as a metal cleaning and finishing solvent.
Disinfection By-products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	9/2/10	0.0311	mg/l	N/A	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)	No	9/2/10	0.0049	mg/l	N/A	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

Notes:

- 1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
- 2 – Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people of moderately restricted sodium diets.
- 3 - 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 or lead values detected at your water system. **The action levels neither lead nor copper were exceeded.**

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.

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).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the 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).

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

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

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. 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. Please call our office if you have questions

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