Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019

Town of Van Etten

Van Etten NY 14889
Public Water Supply ID# NY0730033

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations the Van Etten 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 our tap water met all State drinking water health standards. 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 Heather Gable, our licensed operator, at (607) 589-4435. You can also call the Chemung County Health Department at (607) 737-2019. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. You are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings held the second Thursday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. at the town hall located at 6 Gee Street.

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 about 532 people through 204 service connections. Our water source comes from two 70-foot deep groundwater wells on the Southwest side of the Village. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution to your home.

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, 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 Chemung County Health Department at (607) 737-2019.

Contaminants Detected in 2019 (or most recent test)

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	9/2018	0.1	mg/L	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine residual	No	Monthly during 2019	Average 0.4 Range 0.1-0.9	mg/L	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	Disinfectant added to destroy harmful microbes
Copper 10 samples at customer taps	No	6/2017	90^{th} % = 0.2 Range 0.04–0.2 **Note 1**	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (Action Level)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead 10 samples at customer taps	No	6/2017	90^{th} % = 2.5 Range 0.7 – 11 **Note 1**	ug/L	0	15 (Action Level)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate	No	6/2019	0.5	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from pastures, fertilizer use; Leaching from septic systems
Sodium	No	11/2018	46	mg/L	N/A	N/A **Note 2**	Naturally occurring, use of road salt.
Total HAAs (haloacetic acids)	No	8/2019	6	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total THMs (trihalomethanes)	No	8/2019	39	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Note 1: The 90^{th} percentile means that 9 of the 10 samples collected were less than or equal to the number given. In the 2017 test round, no result was higher than the action level for lead or copper.

Note 2: No MCL; 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 on moderately restricted sodium diets

Definitions used in the table:

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.	**Milligrams per liter (mg/L):** Corresponds to one part of substance in one million parts of liquid. Say, one penny in $10,000 dollars.
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.	**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of substance in one billion parts of liquid. Say, one penny in 10 million dollars.
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 that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.	**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Not Applicable (**N/A**)	**Not Detected (ND):** The contaminant was not present in the laboratory sample.

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.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

As we notified you last May, we repaired a minor malfunction in our chlorinator. However, the next day some sections of our service area showed unusually low levels of residual chlorine. Because there was a possibility that untreated well water had entered the system, we issued a boil advisory. The advisory was cancelled after flushing the system and lab testing showed our water met state standards.

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).

Lead Reminder: our testing results were well below the action levels set by New York State. However, you should be aware that most household plumbing contains some lead, either as the solder used on copper pipe or from brass alloys used to make faucets and fittings. After a long period of contact, lead can leach into your 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 Van Etten 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.

Other helpful hints to prevent lead exposure:

- Never consume water from the hot tap because hot water is much more corrosive than cold water, and picks up lead quickly.

Hints to prevent lead exposure - continued

- Check and clean the screens on faucet aerators often. The tiny pieces of pipe scale trapped on the screen often contain high levels of lead.
- Be aware that most lead exposure usually comes from sources other than water, like lead paint in older homes. Opening and closing doors and windows that were painted before lead based paint was banned in 1978 generates microscopic dust that can settle throughout the house. To learn about what you can do to protect your kids check out http://www2.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family

Source Water Assessment:

Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state 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 well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for 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. Water suppliers and county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high to medium high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state government) and agricultural land in relation to the wells. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown high hydraulic conductivity. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of this assessment and a map can be obtained by contacting us.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us 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 if you have questions.