

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019

Village of Victor, 60 East Main Street, Victor, NY 14564 • Public Water Supply ID#3401166



Jon McConnell

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Victor will annually issue a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of your drinking water and of the need to protect our drinking water sources.

We performed a minimum of two water quality tests per month this past year to detect the presence of total coliform and e-coli. We have also sampled our system for the levels of asbestos, by-products of chlorination, lead and copper in our drinking water. This testing showed that your drinking water met all of the required standards to provide you with safe drinking water with the exception of testing conducted in August of 2019. At that time, sampling revealed the presence of total coliform in samples as well as e-coli in one sample. This triggered us to put our system on a boil water advisory for five days as we flushed our system and conducted 3 sets of 3 samples over those five days. None of the follow up testing detected total coliform or e-coli. As a result, we were allowed to lift the boil water advisory. We then conducted a level II assessment of our system as required by the NYS DOH. No definite cause for the e-coli presence was found but it was determined to be a possible operation error in taking or handling of the sample or from too aggressive flushing of the system. We changed the testing lab we used as well as changed procedures for better sampling quality and system operations to prevent this from occurring again.

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.

We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Jon McConnell, Water System Operator by phone at (585) 924-3311 or jon7681@netscape.net.

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 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 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 2,689 people from just over 1,000 service connections. Our water in the Village of Victor is supplied solely by the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA). The MCWA is the third largest supplier of drinking water in New York State and one of the 60 largest water suppliers in the United States. In June of 2001, the Village of Victor permanently discontinued the use of our East Main Street Springs and began supplying our

distribution system with all MCWA supplied water. The MCWA utilizes surface waters from Lake Ontario as the primary source and provide complete treatment, including coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection with chlorine and fluoridation prior to distribution. The MCWA also uses water from Hemlock Lake, Lake Erie, The Niagara River, Tonawanda Creek, and wells in Corfu and Batavia.

The New York State Health Department has evaluated the susceptibility of water supplies statewide to potential contamination under the Source Waters Assessment Program (SWAP). In general the Great Lakes sources used by the Shoremont Treatment Plant of the MCWA and the water they purchase from the Town of Ontario and ECWA are not very susceptible because of the size and quality of the Great Lakes. Hemlock and Canadice Lakes which are the source waters for MCWA's Hemlock plant are not very susceptible as a result of their size and the tight control of the system's watershed. The well water used at the Corfu Plant is more susceptible but the confined nature of the aquifer provides protection against the few possible contaminant sources. The Tonawanda Creek and the well water used by the City of Batavia plant are much more susceptible because of the smaller watershed and the number of potential contaminant sources in it. Because storm and waste water contamination are potential threats to any source water, the water provided to our customers undergoes rigorous treatment and testing prior to its delivery.

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the MCWA before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range from 0.7 to 1.2 mg/l (parts per million). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the MCWA monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. 95% of the samples that were taken this year fell in the range of 0.16 to 0.79 mg with a daily average of 0.64 mg/l. These results are well below the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2019, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. The one exception to this is that we were a week late on testing our byproducts of chlorination due to a scheduling oversight. The samples were however completed with results well below the limits.

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 may be more than one year old.

A more detailed table of testing which the MCWA has conducted throughout the year can be seen on their web site at www.mcwa.com.

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 Geneva District Office of the New York Department of Health at (315) 789-3030.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total THM's	no	02/18-11/18	58.3(4)/68	ug/l	N/A	80	By-products of water chlorination
HAA5	no	02/18-11/18	9.3(4)/18	ug/l	N/A	60	
Copper	no	6/21/17	0.172(2)	mg/l		AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	no	6/21/17	2.2(3)	ug/l		AL=15	Degrading transmission mains
Asbestos	no	12/13/11	0	count	7	7	
Total Coliform	yes	2/month	presence	n/a	n/a	Absence	Animal or human activities
Total E-coli	yes	2/month	presence	n/a	n/a	Absence	

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for copper was exceeded at none of the sites tested.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10(samples) samples collected. The 90th percentile value is the second highest value at the locations we tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at none of the sites tested.

4 - This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

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.

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?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, none of these contaminants were detected above the level allowed by the State with the exception of the incident in August that was explained in the introduction.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking 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 Victor 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>.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA

Two of the contaminants that MCWA tests for are Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These two parasitic protozoans have caused outbreaks of intestinal diseases in the U.S. and overseas. They are common in surface waters and represent a potential health problem for anyone drinking untreated or poorly treated water. In 2019 Cryptosporidium and Giardia were not detected in any of the samples collected at the Shoremont, ECWA, or Town of Ontario Plants. No special precautions are needed by the general population to use our water.

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).

TASTE AND ODOR

You may notice a chlorinous taste and odor in your water. Although some people may find this objectionable, we are required to maintain chlorine residual in the distribution system to prevent the growth of bacteria. Simply storing water drawn from your tap in a container overnight in your refrigerator will eliminate or reduce the taste. An inexpensive carbon filter will do the same thing, but they should be replaced regularly.

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 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.

HARDNESS AND HOME TREATMENT UNITS

Water hardness is a measure of the mineral content of water. Our water, which has a hardness of between 5.1 and 7.5 grains per gallon, is considered "moderately hard". By the way of comparison, before we switched to MCWA supplied water, the Village of Victor used Ground water supplies with Total Hardness values of about 20 grains per gallon.

Do not let anyone pressure you into buying a water treatment system by telling you that your water is not safe. The water we provide to you is consistently better than the drinking water regulations require.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water. 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. Questions regarding our water rates, billing, or scheduling meter changes and final readings can be handled by our staff at our Village Hall. Their number is (585) 924-3311 and their hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. These natural resources are the heart of our communities, our way of life, and our children's future.