

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

Village of Richmondville

295 Main Street, PO Box 493

Richmondville, New York 12149

Public Water Supply ID# NY4700097

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Village of Richmondville, will be issuing a report annually 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, we conducted tests for contaminants as mandated by the Health Department. We detected 17 of those contaminants from the reservoirs and none were at a level higher than the State allows. We detected 11 of those same contaminants in the well water source and none were above the level that the State allows. The well was used in 2024 to fill the Village pool. 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 **Eric Jones, DPW Superintendent at 518-294-7700**, or the Schoharie County Department of Health at 518-295-8382. 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 at the Village Office on the third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm.

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 number 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.

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) <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> or the Schoharie Health Department at 518-295-8365. The NYS DOH website <https://www.health.ny.gov/> find drinking water.

Our water source is surface water drawn from 2 reservoirs which are located west of the village near Smith Road. The water

travels from the reservoirs to the water treatment plant. Alum is added to create flock particles that attract impurities in the water. These impurities are removed as the water passes through sand filters. The filtered water is then treated with soda ash to raise the pH and reduce its corrosivity. Chlorine is added to the water to protect against microbial contaminants. Fluoride is added to protect teeth. Digital recorders show water tank level as well as turbidity of the finished water. The water plant also houses a generator for use during power outages. A well located behind Radez School in the Village Park is our secondary water source and is not normally in use. The well is 80 feet deep and produces 160 gallons per minute. A blended phosphate is added to sequester iron so that when chlorine is added an orange tint is not noticeable; chlorine is added to the water for disinfection, and fluoride is added as it is pumped into the system. The treated water is pumped through water mains to each customer. Additional water is stored in a tank off Bear Gulch Road in the Village for use during periods of peak demand. Our water system serves +/- 850 people. Residential water charges are \$82.90 per 10,000 gallons minimum per quarter and an additional \$8.29 per 1000 gallons used after the minimum.

Total treated water production in 2024 was approximately 21,811,000 gallons which was approximately 59,756 gallons per day.

Total treated water production in 2023 was approximately 18,651,000 gallons which was approximately 51,098 gallons per day.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. 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 to the reservoirs. 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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two reservoirs. Agricultural land cover has a medium to high potential impact to the reservoirs because of microbial contaminants, phosphorus, herbicides and pesticides. Residential land cover has a high potential impact to the reservoirs because of microbial contaminants and various other contaminants. The transportation routes (railroad, Interstate 88, State Route 7 and other roads) have a high potential impact to

the reservoirs for various contaminants.

The source water assessment has rated the reservoirs as having a high susceptibility to protozoa, enteric bacteria and enteric viruses, medium-high susceptibility to phosphorus, because of residential land uses, and agricultural land cover in the watershed and a high natural sensitivity to these contaminants. The source water assessment has rated the reservoirs as having a medium susceptibility to pesticides and herbicides because of a medium natural sensitivity to them, the agricultural land cover and transportation routes (railroad, Interstate 88, State Route 7 and other roads).

The source water assessment has rated the land use susceptibility to halogenated solvents, petroleum products, other industrial organics, metals, nitrates, sediments, turbidity, cations/anions (salts, sulfate), disinfection by-product precursors (natural organic matter) as low because of a low contaminant prevalence rating.

While the source water assessment rates our reservoirs as being susceptible to protozoa, enteric bacteria and enteric viruses, please note that our water is filtered and disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home and business meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Normal background levels for nitrates in ground water wells in Schoharie County range between not detected to approximately 0.3 milligrams per liter. Surface water sources can vary seasonally but are rarely above 2 milligrams per liter in Schoharie County.

Organic contaminants (which are the disinfection by-products of total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) were detected in our water in the last sample analyzed for them. The reservoirs have a medium natural sensitivity to natural organic matter which is the precursor to the formation of the disinfection by-products. The presence of agricultural land cover in the watershed has an impact on the natural organic matter content of the water. Residential land cover in the watershed has a high potential impact on surface water reservoirs and contributes to the level of natural organic matter in the water. The railroad, Interstate 88, State Route 7 and other roads have a potentially high impact on the reservoirs and contribute to the natural organic matter in them. The levels of disinfection by-product precursors have a low contaminant prevalence rating, and accordingly, the sources are rated low for susceptibility to the natural organic matter.

The reservoirs are protected from contamination by watershed rules and regulations found in the New York State Sanitary Code, sewage treatment regulations of the Schoharie County Sanitary Code, and land use review by the Town Planning Board and Zoning regulations. The DPW Superintendent routinely inspects the watershed. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

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, radionuclides, 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, is more than one year old. Here are some definitions to help explain amounts of contaminants.



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, based upon a running annual average of the samples. 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 contaminants.

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. < is less than. > is greater than.

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.

Table of Detected Contaminants

primary water source surface water reservoirs

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG or MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL, or MRDL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	02/12/2010 5/22/2024	0.037 <.050	mg/l	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	09/26/2001 11/06/2019	6 91.3	mg/l	none	250	Naturally occurring.
Fluoride	No	Daily	0.3 to 1.4	mg/l	2.2	2.2	Not contamination, added to protect teeth.
Sodium	No	11/10/2021 9/28/2022 11/2/2023 5/22/2024	40.9 87.4 77.2 52.2	mg/l	none	See health effects below	Naturally occurring, road salt runoff, animal wastewater softeners and addition of sodium hypochlorite disinfectant.
Nitrate Nitrite not detected 11/05/2021	No	11/05/2021 9/28/2022 11/2/2023 5/22/2024	40.9 .07 .06 <.10	mg/l	10	10	Naturally occurring, fertilizer, manure, septic systems.
Turbidity	No	8/2/2024	.37	NTU	0.3 or less	0.3 NTU in at least 95% of monthly samples	Soil Runoff.
Sulfate	No	09/26/2001	21	mg/l	250	none	Naturally occurring.
Zinc	No	1991 5/22/2024	0.02 <.10	mg/l	5	NA	Naturally occurring.
Copper	No	2024	0.505 (Highest level detected) see info below	mg/l	.47	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	No	2024	67.1 highest level detected	ug/l	0	AI=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	06/16/2009 10/24/2017	1.4 ND	pCi/l	50	zero	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Combined radium 226 and radium 228	No	10/12/2011 10/24/2017	1.01 0.17	pCi/l	zero	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine residual	No	Daily	0.2 to 2.94	mg/l	4	4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Halo Acetic Acids Or HAA5	No	2/7/2024 5/15/2024 8/7/2024 11/7/2024	10.9 23 17.4 25.7	ug/l	60	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Haloacetic acids are formed when the source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
TTHM which is known as Total Trihalomethanes	Yes	2/7/2024 5/15/2024 8/7/2024 11/7/2024	26.3 46 62.8 57	ug/l	80	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Chlorination is needed to kill harmful organisms. THMs are formed when the source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total Organic Carbon Raw	No	2/7/2024 5/8/2024 8/7/2024 11/7/2024	1.5 2.3 2.4 4.2	mg/l	none	none	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon Filtered	No	2/7/2024 5/8/2024 8/7/2024 11/7/2024	<1.0 .89 1.6 1.9	mg/l	none	none	Naturally present in the environment
PFAS	No	2/10/2021 2/9/2022 6/6/2024	<1.9 <1.9 <2.0	Mg/l	none	1.9	Widely used, long lasting chemicals used in everyday life, the components of which break down very slowly over time.
Well water Arsenic	No	03/23/2016 10/02/2019	4 2.6	ug/l	Not applicable	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Well water Barium	No	03/23/2016 10/02/2019	1.03 1.27	mg/l	2	2	Naturally occurring from the erosion of natural deposits
Well water Radium 226 and 228 combined	No	03/02/2016	1.281	pCi/l	zero	5	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Well water PFAS	No	2/10/2021 11/3/2021 2/9/2022	<1.9 <1.9 <1.9	Mg/l	none	1.9	Widely used, long lasting chemicals used in everyday life, the components of which break down very slowly over time.
Well water Sodium	No	12/13/2017	92.6	mg/l	none	See health effects below	Naturally occurring

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, there were no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these other contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. Below is an explanation of the contaminants and health effects.

Arsenic. Detected in the well which was not used in the distribution system in 2022. While your drinking water meets the US Environmental Protection Agency's standard, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The US Environmental Protection Agency's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Major sources in drinking water are as follows: erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Barium. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure. Major sources in drinking water are as follows: discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.

Selenium. Selenium is an essential nutrient. The level of selenium detected in the water is far below the MCL to have any adverse health effects. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation. Selenium comes from the erosion of natural deposits.

Fluoride. Our water system is one of many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. 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 0.5 to 0.9 mg/l (parts per million). The target is 0.7. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride on a daily basis. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that above the 2.2 mg/l NYS maximum contaminant level for fluoride. Fluoridated water is the most effective and economic method of preventing tooth decay and associated health problems. The range of fluoride was 0.3 to 1.4 mg/l. New fluoride equipment was installed in 2017 using grant funds from the State.

Chloride. No health effects. The level of chloride in the water is too low to cause adverse taste effects and is a naturally occurring substance abundant in nature. The MCL for chloride is the level which the taste of water may become objectionable. In addition to the adverse taste effects, high chloride concentration levels in the water contribute to the deterioration of domestic plumbing and water heaters. Elevated chloride concentrations may also be associated with the presence of sodium in the drinking water.

Nitrate. No health effects given at levels noted. Not detected in the well. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above the MCL of 10 mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months

of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, you may ask for advice from your health care provider.

Sodium. 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.

Sulfate. The amount of sulfate in the water is so low no health effects can be observed. At high levels, sulfates can form scale on plumbing and cause diarrhea.

Zinc. Zinc has no health effects unless detected in very high concentrations. The presence of zinc may result in an undesirable taste in drinking water.

Total Trihalomethanes. Total trihalomethanes are chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform as a group. They are formed when chlorine used for required disinfection reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Beginning in 2004 we monitored for trihalomethanes every calendar quarter because of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule.

Haloacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed when chlorine used for required disinfection reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water. Compliance is based upon a running annual average of the previous four quarters of results and is displayed in the table. Even though we are not required to, we are presenting following information on haloacetic acids in drinking water: Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Beginning in 2004 we monitor for haloacetic acids every calendar quarter because of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule.

Copper. The Village was not in violation of the copper levels of the Federal and State Lead and Copper Rule. Copper was detected in all 10 residences sampled in 2024. The results indicated copper was not above the action level of 1.3 mg/l. The results from highest to lowest were: .505, .229, .179, .177, .145, .134, .120, .091, .055, .025. The table represents the highest level detected. Copper, in small amounts, is an essential nutrient to your health. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor. If you are concerned about the copper in the water, flush your tap water as stated in the lead information below to remove it from the drinking water. Lead and copper sampling will be done on 10 residences again in summer 2024.

Turbidity. 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. Turbidity has no health effects. The regulations require that 95% of the composite filtered water turbidity samples collected have measurements

below 0.3 NTU. The Village was not in violation of these filtration treatment techniques in 2024. Regulations also require that no filter may have water above 1 NTU in measurements taken 15 minutes apart excluding backwash and filter to waste measurements. The filters complied with that standard. Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptom such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and associated headaches. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU in the distribution system. There will be times when we have to flush the water mains or fires occur where the turbidity may be higher. Please let us know and we will try to correct the problem.

Chlorine Residual. We are mandated to add chlorine to the water to kill any harmful organisms. Our chlorine levels are at acceptable levels, and we must always have chlorine in the water. Chlorine residual is a by-product of drinking water chlorination. The MRDL of 4 mg/l was effective on January 1, 2004, and the MRDLG is 4 mg/l. The chlorine residual in 2024 was always below 4.

Total Organic Carbon. Is naturally present in the environment. It has no health effects. It provides a medium for the formation of the disinfection by-products of Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids.

Iron. The water system is not in violation of the MCL for iron. Iron has no health effects. At 1,000 ug/l a substantial number of people will note the bitter astringent taste of iron. Also, at this concentration, it imparts a brownish color to laundered clothing and stains plumbing fixtures with a characteristic rust color. Staining can result at levels of 50 ug/l, lower than those detectable to taste buds. Therefore, the MCL of 300 ug/l represents a reasonable compromise as adverse aesthetic effects are minimized at this level. Many multivitamins may contain 3000 or 4000 ug/l of iron per capsule. The iron detected in the well water was 100 ug/l.

PFAS. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) has been a manufactured perfluorochemical and a byproduct in producing fluoropolymers. Perfluorochemicals are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. PFOA persists in the environment and doesn't break down. The human health effects from exposure to low environmental levels of PFOA are unknown.

Lead. Lead was detected in all 10 tests done on services in July 2024. The results are all below the action level of 15 ug/L except one: 67.1, 6.2, 4.9, 4.4, 3.3, 1.8, 1.5, 1.1, 1, 1. A corrosion control additive was selected in 2009 to control the leaching of lead and copper into the water in case action levels are ever exceeded again. The lead dissolves from the household plumbing and gets higher as the water sits motionless in the pipes for a longer period of time. The water sources did not detect lead in the previous sample. Infants and children who drink water containing **lead in excess** of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight defects in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically

more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for approximately 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Lead and copper monitoring will be done again in summer 2021 as required. No lead or copper have been detected in the raw source water.

Manganese. The amount of manganese is very low and is not in violation of State standards. It is naturally occurring and is a beneficial nutrient. The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council determined an estimated safe and adequate daily intake of manganese to be 2000 to 5000 ug/l for adults. Excess manganese produces a brownish color in laundered goods and impairs the taste in coffee, tea and other beverages. Concentrations may cause a dark brown or black stain on porcelain plumbing fixtures. As with iron, manganese may form a coating on distribution pipes. These may slough off, causing brown blotches on laundered clothing or black particles in the water.

Radon. We collected a radon sample from the well water on August 3, 2000, during construction of the well. The sample had 469 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). The contribution to radon in air from that concentration is less than 0.1 pCi/l with normal water usage. Current EPA guidelines suggest that remedial action be taken when the average indoor air concentration is greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/l. For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or the EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON). Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels in drinking water over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

No coliform bacteria were found in the finished water you drink in 2019.

Combined radium 226 and 228. Was found just above the the detection limit of 1 in 2011 and not detected in 2017. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 above the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Our next sample is due by December 2026.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

All monitoring and reporting to the health department was done as required. At least five turbidity, fluoride, and chlorine samples are done in the distribution system every week and must be at different sites.

Waivers. Our system has been granted a waiver from the sample requirements for the inorganics of antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cyanide, mercury, nickel, selenium and thallium. The waiver is being issued because these contaminants have not been detected or detected at naturally occurring trace levels that are reliably and consistently below the maximum contaminant levels, for at least three rounds.

The waiver applies the surfaces water sources only. The next sample is due by the expiration date of the waiver, December 31, 2028. Sampling may be required if circumstances change. We have a waiver from monitoring for asbestos in drinking water because our system contains no pipe with asbestos and our sources are not vulnerable to asbestos contamination. The Revised Total Coliform Rule was effective April 2016. The system complied with the new regulation since there was no total coliform bacteria detected in the year 2019 and no level one or level two assessments were required.

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). Please note that our sodium was recorded at 87.4 mg/L this above the action level for those on a *severely restricted sodium diet*. Please keep this in mind.

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 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.
- ◆ *Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.*

CLOSING

This year our Annual DOH Inspection went well. We passed with a satisfactory rating.

I would also like to add that the water plant had a Comprehensive

Performance Evaluation conducted in May by local and State health department personnel. The last CPE was done in 1995. While I am still waiting for the final report, the inspection itself, which lasted 3 days, went very well. They conducted many tests, and they all came back under the maximum contaminant levels. 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.

To help do a better job controlling taste and odor issues in the summer months, we have added new options for polymer addition at the Water Plant and we have aeration units in the lower reservoir. These aeration units were left on year-round to better aerate the water being fed to the plant.

Please call our office if you have questions.