

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016
Town of Aurora, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, New York 14052
(Public Water Supply ID# 1400412; 1400413; 1400418)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Aurora, 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 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 Town Water Department at (716) 652-4050. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings held at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the auditorium at 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY.

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 approximately 1550 people through 659 service connections. Our water source is Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The water is treated by conventional filtration at two Erie County Water Authority (ECWA – www.ecwa.org) treatment plants prior to distribution. Erie County Water Authority also performs disinfection, pH adjustment and fluoridation on the water it provides us.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for several contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, lead and copper, and chlorine residual. The Erie County Water Authority tests for turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological, synthetic organic compounds and cryptosporidium and giardia. The table presented below and the enclosed ECWA supplement 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 Erie County Health Department at (716-961-6800).

Table of Detected Contaminants

District 1	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
1400412 Dist. 1	Lead	NO	8/2014	5 ¹ 1 – 7	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1400412 Dist. 1	Copper	NO	8/2014	0.062 ¹ ND – 0.069	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1400412 Dist. 1	Chlorine Residual	NO	daily	0.50 0.03–0.96	mg/l	N/A	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.
1400412 Dist. 1	Haloacetic ² Acids	No	8/18/2016	23.8	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
1400412 Dist. 1	Total Trihalomethanes ³	No	8/18/2016	81.6	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
District 235	Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
1400418 Dist.235	Lead	NO	8/2014	3 ¹ ND – 3	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

1400418 Dist. 235	Copper	NO	8/2014	0.057 ¹ ND – 0.063	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1400418 Dist.235	Chlorine Residual	NO	daily	0.61 0.07-1.17	mg/l	N/A	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.
1400418 Dist. 235	Haloacetic ² Acids	No	8/18/2016	11.9	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
1400418 Dist. 235	Total Trihalomethanes ³	No	8/18/2016	68.1	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
District 7	Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
1400413 Dist. 7	Lead	NO	8/2014	5 ¹ ND – 5	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1400413 Dist. 7	Copper	NO	8/2014	0.068 ¹ ND – 0.078	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1400413 Dist. 7	Chlorine Residual	NO	daily	0.88 0.25-1.55	mg/l	N/A	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.
1400413 Dist. 7	Haloacetic ² Acids	No	8/18/2016	10.3	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
1400413 Dist. 7	Total Trihalomethanes ³	No	8/18/2016	66.9	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested in each water district. 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 or copper values detected at your water system. For example, 5 samples were collected and tested for lead in Dist. 1 and the 90th percentile value was the average of the two highest samples, or 5 ug/l. The action level for lead or copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2. Haloacetic acids are byproducts of the water disinfection process required to kill harmful organisms. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The level detected represents the system's highest single location's running average.

3. Trihalomethanes are byproducts of the water disinfection process that occur when natural organic compounds react with the chlorine required to kill harmful organisms 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 system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The level detected represents the highest single location's running annual average.

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. 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 which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Micrograms per liter (ug/L): corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (part per billion – ppb).

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm).

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

N/A: Not applicable.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no contaminant violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

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 Town of Aurora in conjunction with the Erie County Water Authority 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>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Monitoring/Reporting Violations:

During 2016, our system was in compliance with most applicable State drinking water operating requirements. We did, however, have a monitoring/reporting violation in that we had a late submittal of the December 2016 operations reports for WD#1, WD#7, and WD#235. The reports were not reported to the Erie County Health Department in a timely manner, a violation of Part 5, 501.51 of the NY State Sanitary Code.

WAIVERS:

Water District No. 7 is operating under a waiver for asbestos monitoring because there is no asbestos containing pipe in the district. This waiver expires on December 31, 2023.

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).

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 ECWA 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 a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, ECWA monitors fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2016 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 99% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

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:

- ◆ Use low flow shower heads and faucets.
- ◆ Repair all leaks in your plumbing system. Just a slow faucet drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Water your lawn sparingly in early morning or late evening.
- ◆ Do only full loads of laundry and dishes.

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 the Town Supervisor's office (716-652-7590) if you have questions.