

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2006
City of North Tonawanda Public Water System
216 Payne Ave., Room #6, North Tonawanda, NY.14120
(Public Water Supply ID #3100572)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the City of North Tonawanda Public Water System, 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 has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 Mr. Paul Drof, Superintendent of Water, Phone# 716-695-8531. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Common Council meetings. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, 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 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 source is surface water drawn from the Niagara River. Our offices are located at 216 Payne Avenue, Room #6 in the City of North Tonawanda, NY. During 2006, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Our intake pipe is located on the East branch of the Niagara River. This intake pipe delivers a supply of Raw water to the North Tonawanda Water Treatment Plant that is rated at a maximum capacity of 12 MGD(Million Gallons per Day). The Plant has a physical treatment process, which includes Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation (settling of suspended solids), and Filtration (filtering out of solids). Chemical processes include Potassium Permanganate (taste & odor, zebra mussel control), Aluminum Sulfate (settling of suspended solids), Chlorine (disinfection), Fluoride, (strong teeth). The finished water is stored in a one million gallon clearwell prior to distribution.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 33,262 people through 11,000 service connections. The total water produced in 2006 was 1.23 billion gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 3.38 million gallons per day. Our highest single day was 4.72 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 1.23 billion gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 300 million gallons. This water was used to backwash filters, flush mains, fight fires, supply water to city owned buildings, and leakage accounts for the remaining 300 million gallons (24% of the total amount produced). In 2006, water customers were charged \$2.30 per 1,000 gallons of water.

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, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, total organic carbon, and synthetic organic compounds. In total 132 drinking water parameters were analyzed. The following contaminants were **NOT** detected in your drinking water: total coliform, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, cyanide, mercury, nickel, selenium, thallium, benzene, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, bromomethane, n-Butylbenzene, sec-Butylbenzene, tert-Butylbenzene, carbon tetrachloride, Chlorobenzene, chloroethane, chloromethane, chloromethane, 2-Chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, Dibromomethane, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, Dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethene, cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloropropane, 1,3-Dichloropropane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, ethylbenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, isopropylbenzene, p-Isopropyl Toluene, Methylene Chloride, n-propylbenzene, styrene, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, Tetrachloroethylene, toluene, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, trichloroethane, trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, o-xylene, m-xylene, p-xylene, vinyl chloride, alachlor, aldicarb, aldicarb sulfoxide, aldicarb sulfone, atrazine, carbofuran, chlordane, Dibromochloropropane, 2,4-D, endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, lindane, Methoxychlor, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Pentachlorophenol, Toxaphene, 2,4,5-Tp (silvex), aldrin, Benzo(a)pyrene, butachlor, carbaryl, dalphon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, dicamba, dieldrin, dinoses, diquat, endothall, glyphosphate, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, 3-hydroxycarbofuran, methomyl, metolachlor, metribuzin, oxamyl (vydate), pichloram, propachlor, simazine, Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD).

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, might 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 Niagara County Health Department at (716-439-7452)

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	6/06	<19.0	Ug/l	2000	2000=MCL	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ¹	No	9/05	250	Ug/l	1300	1300=AL	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	No	6/06	1200	Ug/l	N/A	2200=MCL	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead ¹	No	9/05	10	Ug/l	0	15=AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	6/06	460	Ug/l	10,000	10,000=MCL	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	6/06	11,000	Ug/l	N/A	20,000=AL	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ²	No	3/	0.98 Dist	NTU	N/A	TT=<5NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity ²	No	2006	100% EP	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of Samples<0.5 NTU	Soil Runoff

¹ - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 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 and lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 30 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 27th highest value. Copper=250ug/l; Lead = 10 ugl. The action level for copper and lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

² - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 08/09/06 (0.98 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulation requires 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU's at EP tap.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross alpha activity (including radium-226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	6/03	0.5	PCi/L ³	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta particle and Photon activity From manmade radionuclides	No	09/95	<4	PCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes ⁴	No	2006	33 (19-60)	Ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids ⁵	No	2006	17 (13-20)	Ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

³ – Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

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

⁵ _ The MCL presented becomes effective for surface water systems serving 10,000 or more people on January 1, 2002, for all other systems this MCL becomes effective on January 1, 2004.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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?

During 2006, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements.

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).

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 up 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, then, check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2006 improvements were made to the Plant instrumentation and Operations. Replacement of old valves and pumps with newer, more efficient equipment has started. Remote readouts and controls for our outlying pumps, valves and tanks is, now, being updated and computerized. Operators are being trained to use the new equipment and run both the Filtration Plant and the Pump Station on an ongoing basis. We are always striving to make improvements and upgrades to our system to comply and surpass the regulations set by the state and have already started on our improvements for 2007.

City of North Tonawanda SWAP Summary

The New York State Department of Health recently completed a draft Source Water Assessment of the supplies **raw water source** under the States Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The purpose of this program is to compile, organize, and evaluate information regarding possible and actual threats to the quality of public water supply (PWS) sources. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the **potential** for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. These reports do not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels - intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The SWAP is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this public water supply raw water intake. This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of residential land in the assessment area results in elevated potential for microbials, disinfection byproduct precursors, turbidity and pesticides contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges, which results in elevated susceptibility for numerous contaminant categories. Non-sanitary wastewater could also impact source water quality. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: Chemical Bulk Storage facilities, Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites, Landfills, Toxic Release Inventory data, Municipally Operated Sewage Facilities and Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities.

Closing

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with Quality Drinking Water again this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our Water Resources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. If you have any questions, please call our Water Offices @ 716-695-8531. Thank you.