

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008

## Village of Seneca Falls (including portions of the Town of Seneca Falls & Fayette)

### West Seneca Falls Water District (Town of Seneca Falls)

### Cayuga Lake Water District #3 (Town of Fayette)

Village of Seneca Falls Water Department, 60 State Street, Seneca Falls, New York 13148

(Village Public Water Supply ID# - NY 4901198) • (West Seneca Falls Water District ID # - NY 4901202) • (Cayuga Lake Water District 3 ID # - NY 4930009)

#### INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Seneca Falls, 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. 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. The following exceptions were noted: On July 3, 2008 a positive coliform was obtained from our monthly sampling. A series of check samples were conducted and all results were negative. In September 2008, several positive coliform results were obtained from the Gravel Road area. A public notification was made to the water users affected with a boil water advisory being issued. Steps were initiated to eliminate the violation and subsequent sample results were negative and the boil water advisory for the area was lifted.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Jeffrey Warrick, Superintendent of Public Works at 315-568-2316. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our Water and Sewer Commission meetings. The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Meeting Room located at 60 State Street, Seneca Falls, New York. Commission meetings are only held on an as needed basis depending upon business before the Commission so please check with the Village Clerk regarding the meeting schedules.

#### 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 source is surface water drawn from Cayuga Lake. During 2008, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

#### BASIC DESCRIPTION OF THE TREATMENT PROCESS

Raw water is drawn into the treatment plant through a 30" diameter intake line. As the raw water enters the treatment plant, a coagulant is added to assist in the settling of particles that may be in the water prior to filtration. The coagulant currently being used is PAC (polyaluminum chloride). This chemical causes the particles to attract to each other and become dense enough to settle by gravity. The treatment plant also has the ability to add activated carbon for taste and odor control. After settling takes place, the water enters one of the five filters located in the main building of the plant. The water passes through a layer of anthracite coal, GAC (granular activated carbon) and several layers of sand to remove any remaining particles larger than 0.3 NTU. After filtration, the water enters a 450,000-gallon clearwell tank that is located beneath the main filter building. This filtered water then passes through an ultra-violet light unit for disinfection. A small amount of chlorine is added to the filtered/treated water to prevent any bacteria growth in the distribution system. The now potable water is then pumped from the clearwell through a 20" diameter transmission main and the distribution system to supply the users and maintain the level of the storage towers.

Information regarding the Cayuga Lake watershed can be found on the Internet at [www.cayugawatershed.org](http://www.cayugawatershed.org) or by contacting the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, 1427 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, 585-442-3770.

#### Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg./Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (Distribution System)	NO	Continuous	0.0	NTU	N/A	TT = < 5 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	NO	Continuous	0.15 / 0.44 0.07-0.44	NTU	N/A	TT = 95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	Soil Runoff
Nitrate	NO	10-08-08	0.46	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; seepage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	NO	10-08-08	.025	mg/L	2	2	Naturally occurring.
Chloride	NO	10-08-08	49	mg/L	250.0	250.0	Naturally occurring.
Sulfate as SO <sub>4</sub>	NO	10-08-08	37	mg/L	250	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Sodium	NO	10-08-08	28	mg/L	(see Health Effects)	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Zinc	NO	10-08-08	.018	mg/L	5	5	Naturally occurring.
Combined Radium 226 & Radium 228	NO	4-17-07	.06 09	PCi/L	5	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (THM's - chloroform, bromochloroform, dibromochloroform, and bromoform)	NO	3 samples per quarter	54.97/2.0 19.3-72.0	µg/L	80	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. THM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acid	NO	1 sample per quarter	20.9 / 32 12 - 32	µg/L	60	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Copper	NO	9/08	0.015 <sup>2</sup> 0.0034-0.19	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	NO	9/08	0.004 <sup>3</sup> ND - 0.015	mg/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 9,000 people with approximately 3,443 service connections. This number includes residential as well as commercial and industrial users. The total potable water produced in 2008 was 358,764,000 total gallons for an average daily flow of 982,915 gallons per day. Our highest single day of production was 1,888,000 gallons, which occurred on October 4th. Again, in 2008, the average household used approximately 7,500 cubic feet or 56,100 gallons of water. The cost for this amount of water to a Village customer is \$244.00 per year and \$367.00 per year for Town and District customers. This is equal to 69¢ per day and \$1.00 per day respectively.

In the Town of Fayette, Cayuga Lake Water District #3, the Village supplied 5,669,469 gallons of water to its customers during 2008. ALL customers of this district should contact the Town of Fayette @ 315-585-6282 regarding any billing and/or service questions.

#### 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, E. coli, turbidity, alkalinity, total organic carbon, 21 inorganic compounds, nitrate, 25 volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and 52 synthetic organic compounds. The table included in this report 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. Anyone interested in copies of the individual laboratory reports can contact the Superintendent of Water and Sewer @ 315-568-2316.

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 Seneca County Health Department at 315-539-1946.

#### Notes:

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. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 6-16-08 (0.44 NTU). State reg-

ulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU.

The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 26 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, 26 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 23rd value (0.0013 mg/L). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 26 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the 26 sites tested. The 90th percentile value for lead is 0.0024 mg/L.

#### 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.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**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 (µg/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

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

#### 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 New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded in one of the samples collected. Based on this result we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

"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 and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water". Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

#### HEALTH EFFECTS OF SODIUM IN WATER

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.

#### IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating and monitoring requirements. The Village did receive a violation of the Part 5 State Sanitary Code Standards for not filing the 2007 Annual Water Quality Report in the time frame prescribed by the regulations. In addition, three (3) Part 5 Sanitary Code violations were received for not filing the monthly report in a timely manner. Steps have been taken to prevent these minor violations from occurring in the future.

#### INFORMATION ON 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 over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

#### 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, 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

During 2008, the following work was completed:

- 5 Fire hydrants were replaced
- 33 new water services were installed.
- 16 water services were repaired.
- 20 water main breaks were repaired.

Major projects planned for 2009:

- The Town will be installing 8" water main on County House Road from Route 414 to Kingdom Road.

#### IN CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family and/or business 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 our office if you have questions.

#### VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Diana Smith  
First Ward Trustee - T.J. Ickwood  
Second Ward Trustee - Sylvester Campese  
Third Ward Trustee - Tony Petrocchia  
Fourth Ward Trustee - Tim Masino  
Village Administrator - Constance Sowards

#### WATER & SEWER COMMISSION 2008

Act Chairman Frank Sincropi  
Commissioner Gilbert Clark  
Commissioner David Clark  
Commissioner Al Uicoone

#### WATER DEPARTMENT STAFF 2008

Superintendent of Public Works - Jeffrey Warrick  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Works - Patrick Calolia  
Plant Operator - James Camusso  
Plant Operator - Robert Hooper  
Plant Operator - John Nicandri  
Plant Operator - David Nageldinger  
Plant Operator - Mark Allen  
Maintenance Mechanic - Joe Jacuzzo  
Maintenance Helper - Ted Flock  
Maintainer - Patrick "Rick" Russo  
Maintainer - Dan Incarnato  
Maintainer - Fred Peterman  
Maintainer - Luther Lotz  
Billing Clerk - Anne Havelin