

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015
The City of Oneonta
110 East Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
System Address
(Public Water Supply ID# 10991000)*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, [The City of Oneonta](#), 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 [Stanley H. Shaffer, Chief Operator, 607-433-3470](#). We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Public Service meetings. The meetings are held the first Thursday of every month.

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 Wilber Lake and the Lower Reservoir that are located off Upper East Street, and the Catella Park Well located in Neahwa Park. During 2015, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water flows by gravity from the Lower Reservoir, and is pumped from Catella Park Well (when in use), through the Water Treatment Plant, After filtration, disinfection, pH adjustment, fluoridation, and corrosion control treatment the water is pumped to the storage tanks and the distribution system.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 15,954 people who live in the City of Oneonta, and parts of the Town of Oneonta. The total water produced in 2015 was 633 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 1.73 million gallons. Our highest single day was 2.63 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 407 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 225 million gallons or 36% of the total produced. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage. In 2015, the annual average water charge per user was \$503.03.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. 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, 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 [New York State Health Department](#) at [607-432-3911](#).

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, and synthetic organic compounds. 227 samples were collected from various locations in the distribution system, and analyzed for Total Coliform and E. coli. Actual laboratory reports for all analyses are available at the City Clerks office in City Hall and at the Water Treatment Plant on East St. Additionally, all results of analyses are submitted to the New York State Department of Health.

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

Samples of finished water from the Water Treatment Plant:

Turbidity (1)	No	11/12/15	0.10	NTU	N/A	TT = <1NTU	Soil Runoff
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Turbidity of the water leaving the Plant is measured continuously with an inline analyzer, and every 3 hours of operations in the laboratory.

TTHM (2)	No	2015	64/24.9-108	ug/L	N/A	MCL =80 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination
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HAA (2)	No	2015	46/2.8-61	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination
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16 samples for TTHM and HAA analyses were collected from various locations in the distribution system.

Fluoride	No	10/21/15	0.71	mg/L	0.70	1MCL=4.0 mg/L	Water additive which promotes strong teethe; erosion of Natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	No	10/21/15	0.22	mg/L	10	MCL=10 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	10/21/15	0.0088	mg/L	2	MCL=2 mg/L	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal Refineries; erosion of natural deposits

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 (0.10 NTU) for the year occurred on 11/12/15. 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. 99% of the turbidity samples collected in 2015 had measurements below 0.3 NTU.

2 – 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.

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.

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.

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 firefighting 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, then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

2015 Completed

Burnside Ave, replaced 665 LF of 4" cast iron pipe with 8" PVC pipe & associated valves, services, & (1) hydrant

Eighth St, replaced 510 LF of 4" cast iron pipe with 8" PVC pipe & associated valves, services, & (2) hydrants

Clinton St (Chestnut St to West St), replaced 1,840 LF of 6" cast iron pipe with 8" PVC pipe associated valves, services, & (2) hydrants

New #2 Low Service Pump/Motor/Drive

ORP analyzer installed

New Main Entrance (Engr.)

The Lab. investigated different Oxidants & Coagulants

UV-254 analysis to monitor the process

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR 2016

2016 Planned

James St, replacement of (1) hydrant & (1) lead service (City side)

Tilley Ave, installation of (1) hydrant & (1) lead service (City side)

Richmond Ave, replacement of 530 LF of 6" cast iron pipe with 8" PVC pipe and associated valves, services, & (1) hydrant

Ravine Parkway & Ravine Park South, replacement of ~1,400 LF of 6" cast iron pipe and associated valves & services

Clinton St (West St to Spruce St), replacement of 295 LF of 6" cast iron pipe with 8" PVC pipe and associated valves & services

Perform SCADA upgrade including integrating all Filter Controls

Replace Soda Ash Feeder

Continuing investigating different Oxidants & Coagulants

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family 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.

LOCATIONS OF 2015 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE CITY HALL, 258 MAIN STREET, ONEONTA, NY

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, 110 EAST STREET, ONEONTA, NY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, 76 SILAS LANE, ONEONTA, NY