

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014*  
*The City of Oneonta*  
*110 East St. Oneonta, NY 13820*  
*(Public Water Supply ID#10991000)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal 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 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 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 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 St., and the Catella Park Well located in Neahwa Park. During 2014, 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 2014 was 625 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 1.71 million gallons. Our highest single day was 2.82 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 403 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 222 million gallons or 35% of the total produced. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage. In 2014, the annual average water charge per user was \$479.12.

## **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, 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, 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 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. 222 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 (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
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**Samples of finished water from the Water Treatment Plant:**

Turbidity (1)	No	2/22/14	0.20	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.

30 lead and copper samples were collected from houses with lead service lines, and analyzed, during July of 2010

TTHM (2)	No	2014	51.68	ug/L	N/A	MCL =80 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination
HAA (2)	No	2014	25.75	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60 ug/L	Byproduct of drinking Water chlorination

16 samples for TTHM and HAA analyses were collected from various locations in the distribution system.

Fluoride	No	10/1/14	1	mg/L	1	1MCL=4.0 mg/L	Water additive which promotes strong teethe; erosion of Natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	No	12/11/13	0.18	mg/L	10	MCL=10 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	10/1/14	0.0068	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 for the year occurred on 2/22/14 (0.20 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU. 99.99% of the turbidity samples collected in 2014 had measurements below 0.5 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.

**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).

### **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**

Loading Dock and Parking Lot Rehab

Sedimentation Basin Concrete Evaluation

Number 1 SRE re-plumbed

New streaming current monitor

New sludge lagoon discharge line

Birch St. – replace water main, hydrant and services

West Street – replaced water main, hydrant and valves on West Street intersection to Clinton Street.

### **IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR 2015**

**Rebuild pump house surge valve**

**Catella Park Well Upgrade**

**Rebuild Plant entrance and walkway**

**Evaluate Lower Reservoir Intakes**

**Integrate Filter Controls into SCADA**

**Burnside Ave – Replace water main and services, add on hydrant, from River Street to Luther St.**

**Eighth St – Replace water main, hydrants and services from Valleyview St to Hudson St.**

**Clinton St. – Replace water main, hydrants and services from 7 Clinton St. to Spruce St.**

### **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 and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.

**LOCATIONS OF 2014 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**

**Oneonta City**  
**NY3800154**  
**AWQR Summary**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 through the subsurface to the drinking water sources.

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. 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 resources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are considered high in comparison with other sources in this area. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells and some reservoirs. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbial, nitrates, industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government), low intensity residential activities, chemical bulk storage facilities, and hazard waste sites within the assessment area. based on the analysis of available information, the reservoirs have a high susceptibility to microbial contamination due to the amount of pasture in the assessment area. There are no regulated facilities within this watershed and the corresponding land cover does not pose any substantial risks to the source water quality. While the source water assessment rates our sources as being susceptible to microbial, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

The City of Oneonta Water Department had a monitoring violation during the third quarter of 2014; due to holding times, not exceedance's of analyte limits.

Samples submitted to the Contract Laboratory during the third quarter for TTHM analyses were not analyzed by the Contract Laboratory during the required sample holding time. The results for these samples were therefore not acceptable. The reports for these samples were not received by the City of Oneonta in time for the City to re-sample during the third quarter. Therefore, samples were taken, and submitted to the Contract Laboratory, on the first day of the fourth quarter. As a result, no official results for third quarter TTHM samples were submitted to the New York State Department of Health.

Results of analyses for all TTHM samples sent to the Contract Laboratory met USEPA and NYSDOH requirements, when the Contract Laboratory followed the required protocols.

**No action was taken by the Department of Health arising from this event.**