

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2006*  
*Erieville Water District*  
*4085 Nelson Road*  
*Cazenovia, New York 13035*  
*Public Water Supply ID# NY2602375*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Erieville Water District, 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 of Nelson at 315-655-655-4863. 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. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Town Office building at 4085 Nelson Road at 7:00 pm.

## **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 148 individuals through 46 service connections. Our water source is two springs located off Damon Road. The water is disinfected with liquid chlorine prior to distribution. The Madison County Department of Health has determined that the spring sources are under the influence of surface water. We are currently in the process of evaluating the compliance requirements and will provide additional updates to the consumer as they become available to us.

## **NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY:**

The NYS DOH has evaluated this Public Water Supply's susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this Public Water Supply.

### **North and South Spring**

This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for microbials, DBP precursors, and pesticides contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources. Additional sources of potential contamination include: roots growing into the spring box and the spring's close proximity to the road. Finally it should be noted that underground water flows to springs can make these drinking water sources highly sensitive to existing and new sources of contamination from solvents and petroleum products.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Source Water Assessments or if you would like to review it in our offices please feel free to contact the Madison County Department of Health at 315-366-2526.

### **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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, disinfection by-products, radiological compounds, inorganic compounds, 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, 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 Madison County Health Department at 315-366-2526.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
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
Copper <sup>1</sup>	N	09/30/06	39.0 <sup>1</sup> Range 2.0-57	ppb	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead <sup>2</sup>	N	09/30/06	ND <sup>2</sup> Range ND	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	11/30/06	510	ppb	10000	10000	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	N	11/28/06	46	ppb	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta Emitters	N	12/18/00	1.9	pCi/L	0	50 <sup>3</sup>	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Gross Alpha Emitters	N	12/18/00	1.7	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium <sup>4</sup>	N	07/11/01	71	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	08/23/04	9.3	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

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							TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids	N	08/23/04	2.8	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

**Notes:**

- 1 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was 39 ppb. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at any of the 5 sites tested.
- 3 – The state considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- 4 – Water containing more than 20 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

**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.

**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).

**Picocuries 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 the level allowed by the State.

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

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2006, we did not monitor or test for Sodium and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Our water system has failed to have in responsible charge a water operator holding a valid NYS Water Operators License.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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.

## **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 of Nelson office (655-8582) if you have questions.