Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014
Town of Fallsburg Water Department
PO Box 2019
South Fallsburg, New York 12779
Davos / Riverside System
(Public Water Supply ID# 5210302)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Fallsburg Water Department 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact William Illing, Town Engineer, at 845-434-6398. 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 and Fourth Mondays of each month at the Town Hall.

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 5 groundwater wells which are located within the Town of Fallsburg. The Source Water Assessment indicates that the Town's source water in minimally susceptible to contamination. During 2014, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water is adjusted for pH and disinfected prior to distribution.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 200 people during the winter and approximately 550 people during the summer through approximately 286 service connections. The total water produced in 2014 was 19,043,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 52,173 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 196,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 9,466,000 gallons. Authorized unmetered usage was approximately 3,999,000. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires and other distribution system maintenance. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 5,578,000 gallons. In order to reduce the amount of unaccounted for water, leak detection and water audit programs are performed annually. Numerous leaks were detected and repaired this year. In 2014, water customers paid a quarterly minimum of $42.15 for 15,000 gallons and were charged $2.85 per thousand gallons above the minimum.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants may include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological 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, is 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 Monticello District Office of the New York State Department of Health Department at 845-794-2045.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average / Maximum) (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead [2]	No	7/2014 8/2014 9/2014	5.37 [1] ND – 9.3 – Range	ug/L	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper [4]	No	8/2011	1.79[3] 0.0022 – 2.19 – Range	mg/L	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Arsenic [5]	No	9/2013	0.0039	mg/L	0.01	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium [6]	No	9/2013	0.384	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [7]	No	5/2014	0.22 – Maximum ND – 0.22 – Range	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium [8]	No	6/2014 12/2014	6.36 – Maximum 6.00 – 6.36 – Range 6.18 - Average	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Total Trihalomethane [9]	No	8/2013	21	ug/l	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Haloacetic Acid [10]	No	8/2013	19.6	ug/l	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Gross Alpha[11]	No	8/2013	-0.05	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta[12]	No	8/2013	0.08	pCi/L	4	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Combined radium – 226 and 228[13]	No	8/2013	0.22	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits.

Notes:

1 - The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system.

2 - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system.

4 - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

5 - Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

6 - Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

7 - Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

8 - 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.

9 - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer

10 - Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

11 - Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

12 - Certain materials are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

13 - Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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.
Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had exceeded the action level for Copper. To correct this we will make adjustment to the treatment of the water as well as conduct increased sampling during 2015. . We have learned through our testing that some other 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?

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During 2014, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The New York State Department Health has completed a source water assessment for this water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to our drinking water sources were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination (PCS) and the possibility of this contamination reaching our drinking water source, 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 be contaminated, See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of contaminants that have been detected. The purpose of source water assessment is to provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future. The source water assessment for the Town water sources found that the assessment area contains no discreet potential; source for contamination. Please note that this report only details the possibility for contamination. Our water is tested regularly to ensure that the finished water coming to your home meets New York State drinking water standards. County and State Health Departments will use this information to direct future source water protections activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management and education programs, Further information can be obtained by contacting the Town of Fallsburg, 5410 State Route 42 South Fallsburg, NY or by phone at 845-434-6398

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 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.

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.