

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2005

Village of Cattaraugus

14 Main Street, Cattaraugus, New York 14719

Public Water Supply ID# NY0400335

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Cattaraugus, 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 recent water quality. Included are details about the sources of your water, 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 DENNIS HUBER, DPW Superintendent at (716-257-5114). We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall, 14 Main Street, Cattaraugus, NY 14719.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF OUR WATER?

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 1,185 people through 526 service connections. Water for the Village of Cattaraugus is being provided by three groundwater sources and three natural springs. Cobo Well is located south of the Village and west of Route 353. It is 44 feet deep in a gravel aquifer and can produce up to 250 gallons per minute. A second and smaller auxiliary well, located at the Cobo Well site can produce up to 100 gallons per minute. Blackmar Well is also located south of the Village, but is east of Route 353. It is 140 feet deep in a sand and gravel aquifer. It can produce up to 230 gallons per minute. Disinfection at the well sites is by gaseous chlorine which occurs prior to pumping of the water into the distribution system. The addition of polyphosphates at the Blackmar Well house is done to prevent naturally occurring iron from precipitating into the distribution system. In December of 2001 the Village re-connected to three previously utilized spring sites in the Town of New Albion to supplement the existing potable well water supply. The springs are located south of the Village in the Town of New Albion at an elevation that allows water to be distributed through the system via gravity. The Mayo Road Springs are located on the western side of Mayor Road approximately 3 miles south of the Village of Cattaraugus. Located adjacent to the Mayo Springs, the Kenyon Hill Springs are grouped on the north side of the New Albion Road between Mayo Road and Sweeny Hill Road. The Easternmost site is the Kelley Summit Springs located on the eastern side of New York State Route 353 approximately 3½ miles south of the Village of Cattaraugus. The water passes through two slow sand filtration systems; one that serves the Mayo Road and Kenyon Hill Springs and one that serves the Kelley Summit Springs. Water is chlorinated using liquid chlorine at the filter sites. The production capacity of the springs is 200 gallons per minute.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for our water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The source water assessment includes susceptibility ratings based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells and springs. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As was mentioned before, our water is derived from several sources. The source water assessment has rated the susceptibility to contamination for the Blackmar Well as high from nitrates and medium-high from halogenated solvents, metals, other industrial inorganics and petroleum products. The susceptibility rating for other contaminants range from medium to medium-high. The elevated ratings for the Blackmar Well are due to its proximity to permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by state and/or federal government). No significant sources of contamination were identified for the Cobo Wells and therefore, their susceptibilities were not rated. All three springs were rated as having medium susceptibility to either pesticides, protozoa, microbes or a combination, thereof. The ratings for the springs are due to their proximity to agricultural activities. While the assessment rates our sources as being somewhat susceptible to microbes, please note that our water is disinfected and filtered (spring supplies) to ensure that the finished water delivered to your homes meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

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, 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, 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 Cattaraugus County Health Department at (716-373-8050).

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic - Blackmar	N	10/13/00	6	ug/l	n/a	MCL=50 (Current MCL=10)	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium - Cobo	N	10/13/00	600	ug/l	2000	MCL=2,000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
- Blackmar	N	10/13/00	237				
- Mayo	N	10/01/03	94				
- Kelley	N	10/01/03	620				
Copper *	N	07/30/03	444 (53-989)	ug/l	1300	AL=1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead **	N	07/30/03	4 (ND-6)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride - Mayo	N	10/01/03	350	ug/l	n/a	MCL=2,200	Erosion of natural deposits
- Kelley	N	10/01/03	370				
Nitrate - Cobo	N	04/16/00	655	ug/l	10,000	MCL=10,000	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
- Blackmar	N	04/16/00	207				
- Mayo	N	08/31/05	1,050				
- Kelley	N	11/15/01	883				
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination

Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (THHMs-chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane bromo form) Distribution System Samples							By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHms are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Mayo Road Springs	N	08/15/05	17.5	ug/l	n/a	MCL=80	
Kelley Summit Springs	N	08/15/05	6.2				

NOTES:

* - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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, ten samples were collected in each water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value, 444 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

** - The 90th percentile level for lead was 4 ug/l. None of the sites exceeded the action level of 15 ug/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.

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).

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.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2005, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

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 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 our office if you have questions.

*We are an equal opportunity provider
Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410*