

Scio Water Department Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020

P.O. Box 105

Scio, NY 14880 ID# NY 0200325

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Scio Water Department annually issues 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. 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 Nate Jenison, Scio Water Superintendent, at 585-593-7220. 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 Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Community Center unless otherwise posted.

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 a combination of springs and wells located north of the hamlet of Scio. There are three springs and one drilled well presently serving the system. The water is filtered through a bag filter system then treated with sodium hypochlorite and fluoride prior to distribution. Our water system serves approximately 950 people through 400 service connections. In 2016 we purchased water from the Village of Wellsville. A copy of their Water Quality Report may be obtained from our office or online @ www.wellsvillewater.com.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The New York State Department of Health has completed a Source Water Assessment for this water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the source of drinking water for this system were evaluated. The 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 wells. 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. Please refer to the section in this Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) entitled “ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?” for a list of the contaminants for which the water has been tested and the test results. The source water assessments provide managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The water for this system comes from springs and one (1) drilled well. The Source Water Assessment has rated the well as having high susceptibility to contamination from nitrates, organic industrial chemicals, and petroleum products. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the well to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated discharge facility, an EPA regulated pipeline, three (3) New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permitted discharge facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment below the surface of the ground, and to one oil/gas well. Also, past sampling has detected nitrates at levels which indicate the well has a high chemical sensitivity, and the well draws water from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. Both of these factors contribute to the high susceptibility ratings. A copy of the Source Water Assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by calling the Scio water department (585) 593-7220

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 & copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. 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 Allegany County Health Department at 585-268-9250.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectant							
Chlorine	No	Jan-Dec	0.34mg/l -1.20mg/l	Mg/L	4.0	4.0	Used as a disinfectant for community water systems
Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Haloacetic acid concentration	No	09/29/20	2.8ug/l	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total trihalomethane concentration	No	9/29/20	14ug/l	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead (See 1. Below on Page 2)	No	09/25/20	0.001	Mg/l	0	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing or corrosion of natural deposits
Copper (See 1. Below on Page 2)	No	09/25/20	0.093	Mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching of wood preservatives

Nitrate	No	09/29/20	0.23mg/l	Mg/l	10	10	Fertilizer use, leach from septic systems, erosion from natural deposits.
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely source of contamination
Fluoride	No	09/29/20	0.64 mg/l	Mg/l	2.2	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes Strong teeth; Discharge from Fertilizer and Aluminum factories
Turbidity	No	05/30/20	0.28	NTU	N/A	1.0	Soil Run Off
Barium	No	6/3/2019	41	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries, Erosion of natural deposits.

1. 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 the distribution samples 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. In 2020, 10 samples were collected at your water system for lead & copper. The range of the ten samples for lead were <0.0010-0.0018 Mg/L. The copper range was 0.026-0.10 Mg/L.

DEFINITIONS;

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 05/30/20 (0.17NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1.0 NTU.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

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.

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 that a water system must follow.

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 MCL 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 2019, our system met or exceeded all criteria for operation of Public Water Supplies.

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 Allegany County Health Department at 585-268-9250.

Fluoride Information

The Scio Water Department is one of many drinking water systems in New York State that provides a controlled level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range. On April 27,2015 The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services released the final Public Health Service recommendation for the optimal fluoride level in drinking water from 1.0 parts per million to 0.7 ppm. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. For the year 2020, the fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 100% of the time.

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).

CLOSING

Remember that water meters, although property of the Water Dept., are the responsibility of the home owner. Costs for frozen or damaged meters or radio units will be charged to the customer. Make sure you have a working shut off valve on the main line entering your home and access to it in case of emergency. We all hear about conserving our fresh water resources. Consumers can do their part through leak prevention, detection and repair within the home. Use water saving devices such as pressure reducing valves, water saving toilets, low flow showerheads and faucet aerators. **Protect your water lines from freeze-ups.** In 2018 the water rates were increased from a base rate of \$25.00 each billing to \$26.00 each. Billing and from \$2.50 per 100 cu.ft. unit (750 Gal) to \$2.60 per 100 cuft. unit. These rates remain the same in 2020. The Scio Water Dept. bills 6 times a year. **The water**

operator can be reached at (585)-802-1740 for after hours emergencies.