Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008
Croton Falls

Croton Falls Water District
266 Titicus Road
North Salem, NY 10560
Public Water Supply ID#NY5903424

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Town of North Salem Town Board, who is commissioners of the Croton Falls 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, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected that the water has exceeded the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) allowed for Gross Alpha including Radium 226 and Combined Radium 226 and 228. As we told you at that time, our water temporarily exceeds a drinking water standard. We continue to work with our engineer and hydro geologist to secure new water supply wells free of contaminants. 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 VRI, Water Operator, 845-677-3839. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please feel free to call the water operator.

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 216 people through 75 service connections. Our water source is a single groundwater well approximately 250 feet deep. The water is pumped to a 25,000-gallon tank. The water is gravity fed into the distribution system. The water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite. No other chemicals are used in the treatment process.
The New York State Health Department has performed a Source Water Assessment, which follows. This discusses the susceptibility of contamination to your drinking water.

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The NYSDOH 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 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. 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 mentioned before, our water is derived from 1 drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are primarily due to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state government) to the well and the associated activities, such as fertilizing lawns.
In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer, which is a shallow aquifer that occurs immediately below the ground surface and has no overlying protective layer for protection from potential sources of contamination and the hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer is unknown. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, 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 the Town of North Salem.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

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 Westchester County Health Department at 914-813-5000.

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, Radiologicals and Haloacetic Acids. 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.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM's	No	2007	17.1	ug/l	80	80	Disinfections
Chlorodibromomethane	No	2007	2.7	ug/l			
Chloroform	No	2007	8.9	ug/l			
Bromodichloromethane	No	2007	5.5	ug/l			
HAA5	No	2007	<0.006	mg/l	0.06	0.06	
Dichloroacetic acid	No	2007	0.0034	mg/l			
Trichloroacetic acid	No	2007	0.0024	mg/l			
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	No	2006	0.415	mg/l	2.0	2.0	
Chloride	No	2007	240	mg/l	250	250	
Iron	No	2006	0.010	mg/l	.3	.3	
*Sodium**	No	2006	92.9	mg/l	270	270	
Sulfate	No	2006	25	mg/l	250	250	
Zinc	No	2006	0.007	mg/l	5.0	5.0	
Nitrates	No	2008	3.13	mg/l	10	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Contaminants							
Copper**	No	2008	1.20	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits;
Lead**	No	2008	0.011	mg/l	0	.015	Leaching from wood preserva-tives; Corrosion of household Plumbing systems.
Radiologicals							Natural Uranium decomposition in the ground.
Radium 226 and 228	YES	2008	8.71	pCi/L	5	5	
Radium 228	No	2008	4.47	pCi/L	5	5	
GR Alpha &Radium 226	YES	2008	18.82	pCi/L	15	15	
GR – B	No	2008	19.90	pCi/L	50	50	
Uranium	No	2008	19.33	ug/l	30	30	

Notes:

*For individuals on severely sodium restricted diets, 20 mg/l, should not use this water for drinking. ** Lead and Copper: The level represents the 90th percentile. Five samples were taken for lead and copper in 2006.
The Radiological violation is discussed under "What does this information mean".

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.
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).
Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, we have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected. You will also see that we are in MCL violation for Radiologicals including Radium 226.

Radium – 226 and 228 comes from erosion of natural deposits. 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.
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium) comes from erosion of natural deposits. 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.

Over the past few years the Town of North Salem has been working hard to secure a new water supply with wells free of contaminants. We continue to monitor the existing water supply on a quarterly basis for radiological contaminants.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system was in non-compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements for radiological testing. We were in compliance with all other applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

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 our office if you have questions.