***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017***
***Town of Sandy Creek Water District #1***
***P.O. Box 52, Sandy Creek, NY 13145***
***(Public Water Supply ID# 3730200)***

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Sandy Creek Water District #1, 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 Nancy Ridgeway, Town Supervisor, at (315) 387-5456 x5. 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 which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

## 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 1539 people through 513 service connections. Our system purchases water from the Town of Richland public water system which is served by the Schoeller and Fernwood well fields which draw water from the Tug Hill Aquifer. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

A source water assessment has not been completed by the NYSDOH for the Richland public water supply. We will provide this information to our customers as soon as it becomes available.

## 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 and copper, volatile organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. Our system sampled for total coliform, lead and copper in 2017. 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 Oswego County Health Department at (315) 349-3557.

| **Table of Detected Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range) | Unit Measure-ment | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | Likely Source of Contamination |
| **Disinfection Byproducts** | | | | | | | |
| **TTHMs** Total Trihalomethanes (2 Locations**)** | No | 8/11/17 | 7.5 | ug/L | N/A | 80 ug/L | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| **HAAs** Haloacetic Acids (2 locations) | No | 8/11/17 | 2.9 | ug/L | N/A | 60 ug/L | By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. |
| **Inorganic Compounds** | | | | | | | |
| **Copper** 90th percentile*<br><br>2 sampling events | No | 2017 | 247 ug/l<br><br>Range 20.6 – 46.1 | ppb | 1,300 ug/l | AL=1300 ug/l | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| **Lead** 90th percentile*<br><br>2 sampling events | No | 2017 | 2.1 ug/l<br><br>Range 1.0 – 8.9 | ppb | N/A | AL=15.0 ug/l | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| **Nitrate** (as Nitrogen) Fernwood and Schoeller well Sites | No | 11/18/16 | 1.20 mg/l<br><br>.41 – 2.0 mg/l | ppm | 10.0 ppm | 10,000 ppm | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Barium (2 locations)** | No | 08/18/17 | 9.2 ug/l avg<br><br>Range 7.1 – 11.3) | ppb | 2,000 ug/l | 2,000 ug/l | Discharge of drilling waste, Discharge from metal refineries, Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Beryllium (2 locations)** | No | 8/12/14 | 0.3 ug/l | ppb | 4 ug/l | 4 ug/l | Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries. |
| **Chromium** | No | 8/18/16 | 1.15 ug/l<br><br>Range 1.1 – 1,2 | ppb | 100 ug/l | 100 ug/l | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits. |
| **Zinc (2 locations)** | No | 8/12/14 | 76 ug/l Range ND – 151 ug/l | ppb | N/A | 5,000 ug/l | Naturally occurring; Mining waste |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chloride (2 locations)** | No | 08/18/17 | 6.5mg/l Range 5.0 – 8.0 mg/l | ppm | N/A | 250 mg/l | Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination. |
| **Sulfate (2 locations)** | No | 08/18/17 | 7.21 mg/l Range 5.1 – 9.7 mg/l | ppm | N/A | 250 mg/l | Naturally occurring. |
| **Sodium** (2 locations)** | No | 8/18/17 | 4.2 mg/l Range 4.27 – 10.2 mg/l | ppm | N/A | N/A | Naturally occurring |
| **Radiological Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Radium 226 & 228 | No | 11/6/13 | 0.168 pCi/l | N/A | 0 pCi/l | 5 pCi/l | Naturally occurring |
| Gross Beta | No | 11/6/13 | 0.364 pCi/l | N/A | 0 pCi/l | 50 pCi/l | Erosion of Natural Deposits. |

**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.

***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)***: A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

***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).

***Picograms per liter (pg/l)***: Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

***Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)***: A measure of the radioactivity in water.

***Millirems per year (mrem/yr)***: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

***Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)***: A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

## 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 your drinking water meets health standards.

## INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS

**Spanish**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**French**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

## 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 firefighting 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.