INTRODUCTION
To comply with State and Federal regulations, The Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA) 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. We are proud to report that last year, the water provided by the MVWA met or surpassed all Federal and New York State Drinking Water Standards. This report provides an overview of last year’s (2013) water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State and Federal standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Connie K. Schreppel, Ph.D., Water Quality Laboratory Director, at 792-0338. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Water Board meetings. The meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Regional Water Board Conference Room, third floor, Utica City Hall at 5 P.M.

For non-English speaking / reading population:

“This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.”

Bosnian – Ovaj izvještaj sadrži važne informacije o vodi za piće. Prevesti, ili razgovarati s neko ko razumije.
Russian - Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Перевести его, или поговорить с кем-то, кто понимает его.
Somali – Warbixintani waxay ku qoran macluumaad muhiim ah oo ku saabsan biyo aad u cabbo. Fasiri karaa ama ulad hasadho qof fasiri karaa adiga.
Spanish - Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Vietnamese - Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Dịch nó, hoặc nói chuyện với một ai đó hiểu nó.
Simplified Chinese - 该报告包含有关饮用水的重要信息。翻译它，或者与别人谁了解它说话。
Traditional Chinese - 該報告包含有關飲用水的重要信息。翻譯它，或者與別人誰了解它說話。

WHERE DOES YOUR 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.

The water we drink gathers in the streams and creeks of a remote 373 square mile Adirondack Mountain watershed, far from settled areas and farmland. These tributaries drain into the West Canada Creek, which carries our water to the New York State-owned Hinckley Reservoir, the source of our water supply.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for our water system. Possible and actual threats to drinking water source(s) 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 source(s). 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. The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is designed to compile, organize and evaluate information to make better decisions regarding protecting sources of public drinking water. The report does not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The source water assessment report is based on reasonably available information. Although efforts have been made to check the source water assessment report for accuracy, the large scope of this program and the nature of the available data make the elimination of all errors from these reports nearly impossible. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

During 2005 a source water assessment was completed under the NYS Department of Health’s Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). This assessment found a low to moderate susceptibility to contamination of our source water. Land cover and its associated activities within the assessment area did not increase the potential for contamination. Permitted discharges from facilities in the watershed do not represent an important threat to source water quality, based on their density in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Additional sources of potential contamination include the roadways in the watershed. In conclusion, it was noted that hydrologic characteristics (basin shape and flushing rates) generally make reservoirs highly sensitive to existing and new sources of phosphorus and microbial contamination.

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.

Based upon the SWAP Report determinations, good judgment should be used and caution should be exercised when determining land use near the source. We work hard to ensure that the source of water for our system is protected from contamination. In fact, the MVWA has existing Watershed Rules and Regulations (10NYCRR Chapter III Part 130.2) that regulate the land use and potential contamination sources around the water source. This is accomplished through a combination of land ownership and policing of the watershed area.

**HOW IS YOUR WATER TREATED?**

In 1990, after four years of careful testing, planning and design, construction of a water treatment and filtration plant began at a site near the village of Prospect. The facility became operational in 1992. The treatment plant includes a double filtration system designed to remove most of the organic matter and contaminants.

After our water has been filtered it is chlorinated. Chlorine is a disinfecting agent and kills bacteria present in the water. Chlorine levels are continuously monitored throughout our 600 miles of pipe that brings the water to your home.

Fluoride is added to your water in concentrations of 0.8 mg/l. Fluoride has been shown to reduce tooth decay and cavities.

Our water is treated to control corrosion of household plumbing that may contain metals such as lead. Calcium hydroxide (lime) and sodium carbonate (soda ash) are used in small amounts to buffer the water so that it is rendered non-corrosive to your home’s plumbing. Lime and soda ash are naturally occurring substances, which pose no threat to human health. Lead levels measured in our customer’s homes are in compliance with the Federal Lead Monitoring Program action levels.
FACTS AND FIGURES
Our water system presently serves approximately 126,250 people through over 38,900 service connections. The daily average amount of water treated was 19.9 million gallons per day. Our highest single day of production was 24.2 million gallons. The total water produced in 2013 was approximately 7.3 billion gallons. Some of the water was used for flushing water mains, filter backwashing, plant processes, equipment and hydrant testing, fighting fires, training firefighters, street cleaning and water main breaks and leakage. Approximately 3.5 billion gallons were sold to our customers. MVWA has an ongoing Leak Detection and Repair program. Approximately one third of the system is surveyed by professional Leak Detection Contractors every 18 months. Since 2000, over 1200 leaks have been located and repaired. The MVWA also has invested over $50,000 in electronic leak detection equipment and training for in house personnel. In 2014, residential water customers were charged $ 4.12 per 1,000 gallons of water (average family of four).

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
During 2014 the MVWA continued its aggressive program of reinvestment in the Regional System.

ON-GOING PROJECTS IN 2014 INCLUDED:
Regulatory Compliance Plan- Southern Reservoir Tank – $3,750,000
The 6 Million Gallon (MG) Low Service Zone Pleasant St. Tank, associated piping and site improvements, was completed in 2014. This tank provided the required water storage in the southern portion of the service area. The Pleasant St. Tank and four (4) others were previously constructed under the RCP to provide 31 MG of covered storage required by new EPA/DOH water quality regulations. These tanks included the two 6 million gallon Toby Road Tanks, the 10 million gallon Deerfield Tank and the 3 million gallon Marcy Reservoir Tank. Their commissioning into the Regional System has allowed the existing uncovered Southern, Marcy and Deerfield Reservoirs to be placed on inactive, stand-by service.

In a related effort, two (2) of the standby reservoirs are being evaluated for slope stability under the NYS DEC Dam Safety program and two (2) additional reservoirs may be decommissioned. These projects will continue into 2015.

Facility Improvements – Kemble St. Maintenance Building and Oneida Street Pump Station – $400,000
Renovations to a significant portion of the Kemble St. Maintenance Facility were completed in Summer 2014. The work included renovated Locker Room, Break Room and Rest Rooms. Handicapped compliant rest rooms and new ramped entranceway were provided. A work clothes drying rack was requested by the crews and one was installed in the Rest Room for their use. A new HVAC system for the renovated areas was installed.

Another major facility improvement project was completed for the Oneida St. Pump Station in New Hartford. The project included installation of new pumping equipment, piping and controls including a new electrical service at the 60 year old station.

Water Main Replacement & Extensions in Utica & Marcy – $125,000 (by MVWA)
The MVWA continued to support the NYSDOT in their Rt. 12 Arterial reconstruction project with water main design and field services for nearly 7,200 feet of new and relocated mains up to 20” in diameter. These mains are being installed by the NYSDOT contractors. The NYS DOT paid for the majority of the mains at a cost of approximately half a million dollars. Similar services are being provided for the City on the CSO projects however, the cost of any mains relocated on these projects is borne by the MVWA. The CSO West Utica project will continue through 2015.

Fire protection was provided to an area of West Frankfort and a new looped feed was activated as well. This work was completed by MVWA’s own forces.

The MVWA installed two 10” Insta-Valves on Whitesboro St. This project was a successful demonstration of this new technology that allows isolation valves to be installed on live mains without the need for a shutdown.
SCADA, WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS – $30,000
Piloting of several new technologies for monitoring remote stations without power has proved very effective and is being implemented at 10 more sites. New Touchpad entry control systems continue to be installed at key facilities. This effort, part of a long-range program, has vastly improved the system monitoring and operation as well as security.

WTP PIPE BRIDGES – $35,000
Both Raw Water Pipe Bridges are designated for major renovations in the next several years. Environmental sampling and analysis was completed in 2014 to identify any regulated materials on the coatings or in the insulation. Some targeted remediation is being currently undertaken to facilitate emergency repairs, if necessary. Structural condition of both Bridges was assessed and new safety railings were designed for both bridges. One set of railings has been installed on the North Bridge and the second set is being fabricated for the South span. Study and renovations will continue on the North Bridge in 2015.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN YOUR 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, 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, 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 at 800-426-4791 or the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064.

### Table of Detected Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Is System in Violation?</th>
<th>Date of Sample</th>
<th>Level Detected Average / Maximum (Range)</th>
<th>Unit Measurement</th>
<th>MCLG / MRDLG</th>
<th>Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, TT or AL)</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microbiological Contaminants— over 100 Coliform Samples Monthly (2078 collected in 2014)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/21, 7/31, 8/4, 8/14, 8/18, 8/19, 10/14, 10/15, 12/16/2014</td>
<td>9 positive samples (1) 0.6% of samples in May, 0.5% in July, 2.3% in Aug, 1.1% in Oct, 0.6% in Dec</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 5% of samples positive in any month</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.coli</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/21/2014</td>
<td>1 positive sample and 0 positive repeat samples (1)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>MCL = any positive sample</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Parameters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (EP) (2)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7/29/2014</td>
<td>0.16 (highest single measurement) (2)</td>
<td>NTU</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>TT = &lt;1.0 NTU</td>
<td>Soil Runoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) The specific dates are a summary of the months in which the samples were collected.
(2) Additional information or notes are not provided in the original text.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
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<th>Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, TT or AL)</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inorganic Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barium</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>0.0091</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>MCL = 2</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 250</td>
<td>Naturally occurring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>0.02 (4) (range = ND - 0.03)</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>AL = 1.3</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride (System Entry Point)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>0.81 (5) (range = 0.0 – 1.1)</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 2.2</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth (The MVWA water system adds Fluoride to the water).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride (Distribution System)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>0.7 (6) (range = &lt;0.2 – 0.8)</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>ug/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 300</td>
<td>Naturally occurring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>7.7 (7) (range = ND –13.6)</td>
<td>ug/l</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AL = 15</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>23 (8)</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>See Note 8 below</td>
<td>Naturally occurring; part of pH adjustment additive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL = 250</td>
<td>Naturally occurring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL=10</td>
<td>Run off from fertilizer use, leaching of septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disinfectants / Disinfection By-Products</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine Residual</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Daily/ Monthly</td>
<td>0.9 (9) (range = 0.0 – 1.4)</td>
<td>mg/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MRDL = 4 (10)</td>
<td>Water additive used to control microbes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acid, and, mono- and dibromoacetic acid)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>18.6 (11) (range = 4.3 – 30)</td>
<td>ug/l</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MCL= 60</td>
<td>By product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NYSDOH in June 2014 but MVWA laboratory results were 0.8 mg/l for the month.)

- Notes:

1. We collect nearly 200 Total Coliform samples per month. Nine samples out of 2078 total routine samples collected in 2014 were found to contain Total Coliform. (One sample in May, one sample in July, four samples in August, two samples in October and one sample in December). Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Additional samples were subsequently collected after each positive sample and total coliforms were not detected in those samples. Since total coliforms were detected in <5% of the samples collected during each month when detected, the system did not have an MCL violation. It should be noted that E. coli, associated with human and animal fecal waste, was found in only one of the samples collected (5/21/2014). However, the presence of E. coli was not confirmed in any of the subsequent repeat samples collected and analyzed.

2. 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 entry point (pre-distribution system) turbidity measurement (0.16 NTU) for the year occurred on July 29, 2014. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. All other levels recorded during 2014 were within the acceptable range allowed.

3. Turbidity is measured on a daily basis in the distribution system. The monthly average of the results in the months with highest turbidity levels were all below 5 NTU. November 2014 had the highest monthly average of Distribution Turbidity measurements (1.2 NTU).

4. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 52 sites tested in 2012. 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, fifty two samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 8th highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The next scheduled round of copper sampling is 2015.

5. This level represents the average and range calculated from daily measurements.

6. This level represents the average and range calculated from sample submission results. (A fluoride sample was not submitted to NYSDOH in June 2014 but MVWA laboratory results were 0.8 mg/l for the month.)

7. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the fifty two samples collected in 2012. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The next scheduled lead sampling is 2015.

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. This level represents the average and range calculated from sample submission results.

10. Value presented represents the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) which is a level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects. MRDLs are currently not regulated but in the future they will be enforceable in the same manner as MCLs.

11. This level represents the highest Locational Running Annual Average along with the range of results for samples collected in compliance with the Stage 2 DBP Rule.

12. This level represents the highest Locational Running Annual Average along with the range of results for samples collected in compliance with the Stage 2 DBP Rule. Compliance with the MCL (80 ug/l) for TTHMs is determined by the Locational Running Annual Average. Although our system was found to have 3 of the 32 samples collected in 2014 above the MCL, the averages for each sample location were below the MCL. Therefore, we were not in violation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>Sampling Frequency</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>51 (12) (range = 12 – 92)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

**Definitions:**

- **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

- **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.
Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. During 2014, as part of our routine sampling, 12 samples from the Hinckley Reservoir raw source water and 12 samples of our filtered water were collected and analyzed for Giardia cysts. Of these samples, from the Hinckley Reservoir raw source water 6 tests were positive for Giardia. Therefore, our testing indicates Giardia may be present in our raw source water. However, no Giardia was detected in our filtered drinking water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where hand washing practices are poor.

**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.

**ADDITIONAL TESTING**

In addition to the testing we are required to perform; our water system voluntarily tests hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, contact the Water Quality Department at 315-792-0338; visit us on the web at www.mvwa.us. We'll be happy to answer any questions about the MVWA and our Water Quality Department.
IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?
Last year, our system was in general compliance with State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

CLOSING
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.

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 and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.
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 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 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 Heat Tape to protect your pipes from freezing. This will save water AND protect septic systems from overuse.
- 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.

LEAD INFORMATION

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

BIOFILM VARIANCE

Our system has been operating under a Biofilm Variance (or Variance from Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level Requirements) since 1994. This variance recognizes the potential presence of Total Coliform bacteria in biofilms within our distribution system. Issued by the New York State Department of Health following a public hearing, this variance allows total coliform presence at levels higher than the Maximum Contaminant Level within our distribution system. The variance issued includes specific sampling and reporting requirements. This variance does not limit our responsibility to notify our customers if a risk to the public health exists. Pursuant to the 2006 renewal of the variance, we are required to provide this information annually in this report. The current variance is effective through May 2016.
**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).

**Information On Fluoride Addition**

Our water system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that adds a low level of fluoride to drinking water in order to provide 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 a properly controlled level. Our fluoride addition facility is designed and operated to provide drinking water with this beneficial fluoride treatment. Additional reliable information regarding fluoridation in public water systems can be found online at: [http://www.cdc.gov/FLUORIDATION/](http://www.cdc.gov/FLUORIDATION/) and [http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental/fluoridation/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental/fluoridation/).