

**ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2007**  
**POCANTICO WATER DISTRICT NO. 1**  
119 Lozza Drive • Valhalla, New York 10595  
(PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY NO. 5903472)

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Pocantico Water District No. 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 Robert Guena, P.E., Superintendent, Town of Mount Pleasant Water and Sewer Department, at 831-1062. 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 Town Board of the Town of Mount Pleasant serves as the Board of Commissioners for the Pocantico Water District No. 1. The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in Town Hall at 8:30 pm. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap 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 322 people through 92 service connections. Our water is drawn from four lakes that are located behind the water filtration facility. The filtration facility is located at 591 Bedford Road. The lakes have a combined storage volume of approximately 62 million gallons. The District also has an interconnection with the Village of Sleepy Hollow.

The filtration facility consists of an upflow media contact clarifier, which acts as a roughing filter, followed by a mixed media polishing filter. Filter water is then chlorinated before entering the pump clearwell, where it resides for a period of time to provide chlorine contact time. Prior to entering the distribution system sodium hydroxide and a blended phosphate chemical is added to inhibit corrosion of household plumbing. Fluoride is added to the finished water for prevention of dental caries. As mentioned before, our water is derived from four lakes.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters in the future.

The source water assessment on the four Pocantico Lakes found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a medium potential for protozoa contamination. A single non-sanitary wastewater discharge found in the assessment area is an unlikely water quality risk, because it is associated with the drinking water filter plant.

A copy of the assessment, including map of the assessment area can be obtained by contacting our office.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

The Pocantico Water District No.1 is required by Chapter 1 of the State Sanitary Code, Subpart 5-1, to monitor raw water and treated water quality by collecting and analyzing samples for various contaminants. Raw water samples are collected annually for organic and inorganic contaminants. The treated water is sampled quarterly for total trihalomethane (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). In 2007, the District was not in violation of any maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM, microbial, organic or inorganic contaminants.

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 a 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 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 Westchester County Department of Health at 813-5000.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2007 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b><u>Microbiological Contaminants</u></b>							
Turbidity (Note 1)	No	03/07	2.1 NTU	NTU	n/a	TT=<5.0 NTU	Soil runoff.
<b><u>Inorganic Contaminants</u></b>							
Copper	No	06/07	.087 (Note 2) (.03-.103)	mg/l	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of deposits.
Lead	No	06/07	5.7 (Note 3) (<LOQ – 8.4)	ug/l	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of deposits.
Barium	No	09/07	.015	mg/l	0	MCL=2.0	Erosion of deposits.
Chloride	No	09/07	11.4	mg/l	0	MCL= 250	Erosion of deposits.
Chromium	No	09/07	1.0	ug/l	100	MCL= 100	Erosion of deposits.
Manganese	No	09/07	2.4	ug/l	0	MCL= 300	Erosion of deposits.
Sodium	No	09/07	9.46	mg/l	0	MCL= 20	Erosion of deposits.
Sulfate	No	09/07	8.48	mg/l	0	MCL= 250	Erosion of deposits.
Hardness	No	09/07	25 mg/l as CaCO3	mg/l	0	MCL= N/A	Erosion of deposits.

Zinc	No	09/07	4.7	ug/l	0	MCL= 5000	Erosion of deposits.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	2007	36.48	ug/l	n/a	MCL= 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	No	2007	43.80	ug/l	n/a	MCL= 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

### Notes:

1 – 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 in March (2.1 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU. Although March was the month when we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 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, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average of the two highest values value (0.087 mg/l). The action level for copper is 1.3 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average of the two highest values (5.7 ug/l). The action level for lead is 15 ug/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

### 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 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.

**n/a:** not applicable, **TTHM:** (total trihalomethane) means the sum of the concentration of trichloromethane (chloroform), dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane and tribromomethane (bromoform).

In addition to the detected contaminants listed above, the following fourteen (14) inorganic contaminants were sampled for but not detected: antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, cyanide, fluoride, iron, mercury, nickel, nitrate, nitrite, selenium, silver, and thallium. Also, the following one hundred and two (102) organic contaminants were sampled for but not detected: 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin), 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-Dibromoethane, Butachlor, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Lindane, Methoxychlor, PCB's, Propachlor, Toxaphene, 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D, Dalapon, Dicamba, Dinoseb,

Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Silvex, THM-Bromodichloromethane, THM-Bromoform, THM-Chloroform, THM-Dibromochloromethane, 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloropropene, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,2 dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichloropropane, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 2,2-dichloropropane, 2-butanone(MEK), 2-chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, Benzene, Bromobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Bromomethane, Carbon tetrachloride, Chlorobenzene, Chlorethane, Chloromethane, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, Dibromomethane, Dichlorodifluoromethane, Ethylbenzene, Hexachlorobutadiene, Isopropylbenzene, Methyl iso-butyl ketone (MIBK), Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), Methylene Chloride, N-butylbenzene, N-propylbenzene, Naphthalene, O-xylene, P & M-xylene, P-isopropyltoluene, SEC-butylbenzene, Styrene, TERT-buthylbenzene, Tetrachloroethene, Toluene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, Trichloroethene, Trichlorofluoromethane, Vinyl chloride, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)adipate, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Simazine, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Aldicarb, Aldicarb sulfone, Aldicarb sulfoxide, Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Methomyl, Oxamyl, Glyphosate, Endothall and Diquat. The following two (2) Radionuclides were also sampled for, but not detected: Tritium and Strontium 90.

### **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?**

In the first and second quarters of 2007 the District neglected to collect samples for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. This represents a Tier 3 Violation, which requires this public notification. This oversight was due to a change in the sampling requirement for this district from one annual sample to quarterly sampling. Once the oversight was detected samples were collected. The results of these samples were below the MCL for both Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids, as were the results of the last quarters in 2007 and the first quarter in 2008. In 2007, our system was in compliance with all other 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 contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **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.
- ✓ 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.

## **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 our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. All consumers are urged to report any suspicious activity observed in the vicinity of water system facilities to the Mount Pleasant Police at 769-1941. Please call our office if you have questions.

Contacts for more information:

Town of Mount Pleasant Water and Sewer Dept., 831-1062

Westchester County Dept. of Health, 813-5000

New York State Dept. of Health, (518) 402-7713

PWS NO. 5903472

May 2008

Pwdawqr2007