

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010**  
**Charlton Water District**  
**824 Swaggertown Road**  
**Charlton, New York 12019**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# NY4503513)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Charlton 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, 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 John Morgan, Water Superintendent at 518-399-5880 or you can email us at [bkprwater@townofcharlton.org](mailto:bkprwater@townofcharlton.org). 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the town hall located at 758 Charlton Road, Charlton, NY.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The Charlton Water District purchases drinking water from the Town of Glenville. The Town of Glenville's water system consists of four drilled wells in the Great Flats Aquifer just west of the Village of Scotia, between Route 5 and the Mohawk River. The aquifer is an extensive bed of sands and gravel underlying the Mohawk River channel. Glenville adds Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) to the finished water for disinfection. A chlorine residual of 0.2 is maintained throughout the distribution system as required by New York State Department of Health Regulations as continuing insurance against any bacterial growth occurring within the system.

In 2010, the Charlton Water District provided water service to approximately 2,000 residents through 587 service connections. We purchased 32,999,890 gallons of water from the Town of Glenville. During 2010, The Town of Glenville did not experience any restriction of our water source.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this Town of Glenville's drinking water sources. The source water assessment was 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 the 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 into the future.

The source water assessment rated the Glenville wells as having an elevated susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the fact that wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates the wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that the water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. The Town of Glenville recognizes the importance of watershed protection by implementing Watershed Rules and Regulations along with zoning restrictions. In 2004, many of the water related sites in the Town of Glenville were fenced off and alarm systems added for increased security.

The Health Department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the Town of Glenville.

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

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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit

the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Glens Falls District Office at 793-3893.

Charlton Water District staff are responsible for testing the water in the park's distribution system. The water is tested monthly for Total Coliform bacteria (2 samples per month), once every 3 years for lead and copper and disinfection byproducts and once every 9 years for asbestos. Source water monitoring is completed by the Town of Glenville. The Town of Glenville tests the source water for inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, nitrate, and radiologicals. The tables presented below summarize the test results for your drinking water. The State allows some contaminants to be tested less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

Table of Detected Contaminants Source Water Samples Collected By The Town of Glenville						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Detected Level	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Sources of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>						
Barium	No	8/11/09	0.024 mg/l	2	2.0 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	8/11/09	0.033 mg/l	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	No	8/11/10	0.218	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from septic tank, sewage
Chromium	No	8/11/09	3.6 ug/l	N/A	100 (MCL)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	No	8/11/09	0.002 mg/l	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel/metal factories

Table of Detected Contaminants Distribution System Samples Collected by the Charlton Water District						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Detected Level	MCLG	NYSDOH Limits or Guidelines (MCL or AL)	Likely Sources of Contamination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
Total Trihalo-methanes	No	9/17/08	20 ug/l	N/A	80 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
<b>Inorganics</b>						
Lead	No	9/9/08	1.8 <sup>1</sup> ND-2.5 <sup>2</sup> ug/l	N/A	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	9/9/08	0.09 <sup>1</sup> ND-0.142 <sup>2</sup> MG/L	N/A	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.

**Notes:**

1 - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to the second highest sample result. Lead and copper were not detected above their Action Levels in any of the 10 sites tested.

2 - The levels presented represent the range of the 10 samples.

**Definitions:**

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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.

**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 are no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the tables above, neither our system nor the Town of Glenville's water system exceeded any contaminant MCL levels in 2010. 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?**

During 2010, both our system and the Town of Glenville water system were in compliance with 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 1-800-426-4791.

### **INFORMATION ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**

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. We are 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>.

### **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; and
- ♦ 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.**

### **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Town of Glenville continues to upgrade their system. Upgrades have been made in their chlorine monitoring system and the control system for chlorine distribution.

**CLOSING**

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. Please call our office at (518) 384-0152 ext. 208 if you have questions.

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