

# 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Seneca Nation



# **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with Federal regulations, the Seneca Nation (SN), annually issues 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 federal 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 Federal standards.

The Environmental Health and Engineering division of the SN Health System, with cooperation from the Utility Departments on the Cattaraugus and Allegany Territories, is tasked with sampling, testing and monitoring drinking water quality.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Joel Merrill, PE, Civil Engineer or Shannon Seneca, PhD., Sanitarian, both at (716) 945-5894.

## 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water sources are:

- 1.) Cattaraugus Territory:
  - a. Groundwater Wells: drawn from two drilled wells which are located on Richardson Road. Richardson Road is one of the many systems 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 levels that range from 0.8 mg/l (parts per million). Our fluoride addition facility is designed and operated to meet this optimal range. This source is also disinfected prior to being pumped to two storage tanks and distribution. This source resumed operation in early 2019.
  - b. Intercommunity Water main: Water is purchased in bulk from Erie County Water Authority (ECWA). The connection is located at Routes 5/20 in Irving. This water is fluoridated and disinfected by ECWA. ECWA's water quality report table is attached.

- 2.) Allegany Territory:
  - a. Groundwater Wells: drawn from two drilled wells which are located on Hiller Rd in Jimersontown. This water is disinfected and pumped to an elevated storage tank prior to distribution.
  - b. Groundwater Wells: drawn from two drilled wells which are located on North Authority Road in Sullivan Hollow, Killbuck. This water is disinfected and filtered prior to usage.
  - c. Groundwater Wells: drawn from two drilled wells which are located on South Loop Road in Steamburg. This water is disinfected and pumped to an elevated storage tank prior to distribution.
  - d. City of Salamanca: Groundwater wells: Salamanca Board of Public Utilities (BPU) report is available at: <u>http://www.salamancabpu.com</u>

Each source has undergone a risk analysis to determine the source water's susceptibility to contamination. Except for farming on the Cattaraugus territory, all sources have a low risk of contamination. Source water assessments are available from SN Health. Efforts are underway to further protect SN water sources.

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the Federal regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and radiological compounds. A full list of the contaminants tested follows. The tables 1 through 5 presented below depict which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The regulations allow 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. See also Erie County Water Authority's water quality monitoring report supplement attached for their detected contaminants

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 SN Health System at (716) 945-5894.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables, 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 EPA.

# DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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

The Cattaraugus system is one of the many drinking water systems that provide drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for 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. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.8 mg/l. During 2020 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 100% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l NY State Department of Health MCL for fluoride. EPA's Flouride MCL is 4 mg/l and EPA's secondary standard for fluoride is 2 mg/l.

# 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.

## SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2020, a capital project was completed to replace the Cattaraugus Administrative Campus watermains. Various watermain projects are planned for 2021. These improvements are funded by SN, EPA, IHS drinking water grants and will provide secure storage and delivery of treated water in compliance with federal regulations. In addition, other projects are planned to protect aging infrastructure and provide treated water to areas not currently served.

# CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our consumers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

# TABLE 12020 Water Quality Monitoring Report-Annual Water Quality Report Supplement-CATTARAUGUS SYSTEM4

	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS										
Metals, Inorganics, Physical Tests	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water					
Barium	No	6/20	1.18 ug/l	2,000	MCL=2,000	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling and metal wastes					
Chloride	No	7/19	20.1 mg/l	0	MCL-250	Naturally occurring in source water					
Nitrate	No	6/20	1.55 mg/l	10	MCL=10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources					
Chromium	No	2/26/19	<0.02 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	MCL=0.1	Erosion of natural deposits					
Fluoride	No	2/19	0.69 mg/l	NA	2.2 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits and added for dental health					
Lead <sup>3</sup>	No	Various (2019)	0.003 mg/l	0	AL=0.015	Household plumbing, corrosion, natural sources, wood preservatives					
Copper <sup>3</sup>	No	Various (2019)	0.135 mg/l	0	AL=1.300	Home plumbing corrosion, natural erosion					

Organic Compounds	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes	No	quarterly	LRAA=0.057 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.08	Disinfection By-Product
Haloacetic Acids	No	quarterly	LRAA=0.015 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.06	Disinfection By-Product

Radiological Parameters	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Radium 228	No	6/20	0.138 pCi/L	NE	NE	Natural sources
Radium 226	No	6/20	0.752 pCi/L	NE	NE	Natural sources

<b>Microbiological Parameters</b> <sup>2</sup>	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Total coliform bacteria	No	Various	None	NE	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment

<sup>1</sup> 90<sup>th</sup> percentile

<sup>2</sup>Coliform bacteria is an indicator for possible bacteriological contamination. No coliform bacteria were detected in any samples in 2020.

<sup>3</sup>There were 20 lead and copper samples collected and analyzed in 2019. The minimum number of samples was 20 samples. Lead & Copper sampling will be conducted again in 2022.

<sup>4</sup>Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) and Richardson Road wells were sources in 2020. Results indicate highest level detected in Richardson Rd source. See ECWA table for ECWA source results.

## TABLE 2 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Report-Annual Water Quality Report Supplement-JIMERSONTOWN SYSTEM

	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS									
Metals, Inorganics, Physical Tests	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water				
Barium	No	10/2/18	259 ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling and metal wastes				
Chloride	No	9/29/15	115 mg/l	NE	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring in source water				
Nitrate	No	6/23/20	1.56 mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources				
Copper	No	12/1/16	0.07 mg/l <sup>1</sup>	AL=1.30	AL=1.30	Home plumbing corrosion, natural erosion				
Lead	No	10/2/18	<0.002 mg/l <sup>1</sup>	AL = 0.015	AL = 0.015	Household plumbing, corrosion, natural sources, wood preservatives				
Chromium	No	9/29/15	<0.010 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits				
Fluoride	No	10/2/18	<0.1	NA	2.2 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits				

Organic Compounds	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes	No	2019	0.022 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.08	Disinfection By-Product
Haloacetic Acids	No	2019	0.008 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.06	Disinfection By-Product

Radiological Parameters	Violation Yes/No		:	Level Detected		G	MCL	L Sources in Drinking Water	
Gross Alpha	No	9/29/15	3.37 <u>+</u> 1.8 pCi/	1	0		MCL=15	Natural source	es
Gross Beta	No	9/29/15	1.79 <u>+</u> 0.922 p	Ci/l	0		MCL=15	Natural source	es
Radium 228	No	9/29/15	0.248 +0.331p	Ci/l	NE		NE	Natural source	es
Radium 226	No	9/29/15	0.297 +0.513p	Ci/l	NE		NE	Natural source	es
Microbiological Parameter		Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG		MCL		Sources in Drinking Water
Total coliform bacteria	N	lo	Various	None	NE	5% c	of samples positive	e	Naturally present in the environment

 <sup>1</sup> Maximum result
 <sup>2</sup>Coliform bacteria is an indicator for possible bacteriological contamination. No coliform bacteria were detected in any samples in 2020.

# TABLE 32020 Water Quality Monitoring Report-Annual Water Quality Report Supplement-STEAMBURG SYSTEM

			DETEC	TED CONTA	MINANTS	
Metals, Inorganics, Physical Tests	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Barium	No	10/1/18	230 ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling and metal wastes
Chloride	No	9/29/15	21.7 mg/l	NE	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring in source water
Nitrate	No	6/23/20	2.30 mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources
Copper	No	9/28/16	0.09 mg/l <sup>1</sup>	AL=1.30	AL=1.30	Home plumbing corrosion, natural erosion
Lead	No	10/1/18	<0.02 mg/l <sup>1</sup>	AL = 0.015	AL = 0.015	Household plumbing, corrosion, natural sources, wood preservatives
Chromium	No	10/1/18	<0.007 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	10/1/18	<0.1 mg/l	2.2 mg/l	202 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits

Organic Compounds	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes	No	2018	0.004 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.08	Disinfection By-Product
Haloacetic Acids	No	2018	0.001 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.06	Disinfection By-Product

Radiological Parameters	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha	No	9/24/18	0.507 <u>+</u> 01.23 pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Gross Beta	No	9/24/18	0.995 <u>+0.78</u> pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Radium 228	No	9/24/18	0.104 <u>+</u> 0.384pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources
Radium 226	No	9/24/18	0.0767 <u>+</u> 0.390pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources

Microbiological Parameters <sup>2</sup>	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Total coliform bacteria	No	Various	None	NE	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment

<sup>1</sup> Maximum result

 $^{2}$  Coliform bacteria is an indicator for possible bacteriological contamination. No coliform bacteria were detected in any samples in 2020.

	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS									
Metals, Inorganics, Physical Tests	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water				
Barium	No	6/24/19	120 ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling and metal wastes				
Chloride	No	9/29/15	3.32 mg/l	NE	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring in source water				
Nitrate	No	6/23/20	1.00 mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources				
Copper	No	8/18/15, 8/20/15	<0.01-0.103 mg/l, 0.0665 mg/l <sup>1</sup> , 0 of 5 above AL	AL=1.30	AL=1.30	Home plumbing corrosion, natural erosion				
Lead	No	8/18/15, 8/20/15	<0.001-0.0013 mg/l, 0.0012 mg/l <sup>1</sup> , 0 of 5 above AL	AL = 0.015	AL = 0.015	Household plumbing, corrosion, natural sources, wood preservatives				
Chromium	No	6/24/19	ND	0.1 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits				
Fluoride	No	6/24/19	<0.2 mg/l	2.2 mg/l	202 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits				

## TABLE 4: 2019 Water Quality Monitoring Report Supplement-SULLIVAN HOLLOW SYSTEM

Organic Compounds	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes	No	2018	<0.01 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.08	Disinfection By-Product
Haloacetic Acids	No	2018	<0.01 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.06	Disinfection By-Product

Radiological Parameters	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha	No	9/29/15	0.948 <u>+1</u> .21 pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Gross Beta	No	9/29/15	0.302 <u>+</u> 0.95 pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Radium 228	No	9/29/15	0.0938 <u>+</u> 0.339pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources
Radium 226	No	9/29/15	0.00 <u>+</u> 0.325pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources

<b>Microbiological Parameters</b> <sup>2</sup>	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Total coliform bacteria	Ν	Various	None	NE	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment

 $^{1}$  90<sup>th</sup> percentile  $^{2}$  Coliform bacteria is an indicator for possible bacteriological contamination. No coliform bacteria were detected in any samples in 2020.

	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS								
Metals, Inorganics, Physical Tests	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water			
Barium	No	6/24/19	154 ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Erosion of natural deposits, drilling and metal wastes			
Chloride	No	4/1/15	78.8 mg/l	NE	250 mg/l	Naturally occurring in source water			
Nitrate	No	6/23/20	1.12 mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources			
Copper	No	12/21/18	0.04 mg/l, 0 of 5 above AL	AL=1.30	AL=1.30	Home plumbing corrosion, natural erosion			
Lead	No	12/21/18	0.003 mg/l, 0 of 5 above AL	AL = 0.015	AL = 0.015	Household plumbing, corrosion, natural sources, wood preservatives			
Chromium	No	6/24/19	0.009 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	0.1 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits			
Fluoride	No	4/1/15	<0.1 mg/l	2.2 mg/l	202 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits			

## TABLE 5: 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Report-Report Supplement-SHELTON PARK SYSTEM

Organic Compounds	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes	No	2018	<0.01 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.08	Disinfection By-Product
Haloacetic Acids	No	2018	<0.01 mg/l	NE	MCL=0.06	Disinfection By-Product

Radiological Parameters	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha	No	4/1/15	2.23 pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Gross Beta	No	4/1/15	1.85 pCi/l	0	MCL=15	Natural sources
Radium 228	No	4/1/15	-0.34 pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources
Radium 226	No	4/1/15	0.1 pCi/l	NE	NE	Natural sources

Microbiological Parameters <sup>2</sup>	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources in Drinking Water
Total coliform bacteria	Ν	Various	None	NE	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment

<sup>1</sup> 90<sup>th</sup> percentile

 $^{2}$  Coliform bacteria is an indicator for possible bacteriological contamination. No coliform bacteria were detected in any samples in 2020.

#### ABREVIATIONS AND TERMS

AL = Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. CFU/100 ml = Colony Forming Units per 100 milliliters MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level: the highest level of a contaminant allowed in a drinking water **MCLG=** Maximum contaminant level goal: the level of contaminant in a drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk **MFL** = Million fibers/liter (Asbestos) **Mg/liter** = milligrams per liter (parts per million) MRDL = Maximum Residential Disinfectant Level: the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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 Mrem/yr = millirems per yrear uS/cm= Microseimens per centimeter (a unit of conductivity measurement) ND= Not detected: absent or present at less than testing method detection limit **Ng/liter=** nanograms per liter = parts per trillion **NE=** Not Established NR= not regulated NTU = Nephelometric turbidity Units pCi/L= Picocuries per liter LRAA= Location Running Annual Average **SU** = Standard Units (ph measurement) TT = Treatment Technique: a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water **Ug/liter (ug/L:) =** micrograms per liter (parts per billion) Variances and Exemption = State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or treatment techniques under certain conditions. < = less than >= less than or equal to

#### TYPES OF CONTAMINANTS

\*Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

\*Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

\*Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as urban storm water runoff, agricultural and residential uses

\*Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of the industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems

\*Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities



		DETECTED CONTAMINANTS									
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				
Inorganic Contaminants & Physical Tests											
Antimony	No	7/20	0.0-0.247 ug/L; Average=0.12 ug/L	ug/L	6.0 ug/L	6.0 ug/L	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardant; ceramics; electronics; solder				
Barium	No	7/20	0.0180-0.0185 mg/L; Average=0.018mg/L	mg/L	2.0 mg/L	2.0 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from electronics and production wastes				
Chloride	No	6/20	16.3-28.1 mg/L; Average=19.7 mg/L	mg/L	NE	250 mg/L	Naturally occurring in source water				
Chlorine	No	3/20	0.57-1.87 mg/L; Average=1.40 mg/L	mg/L	NA	MRDL=4.0 mg/L	Added for disinfection				
Copper <sup>2</sup>	No	6/19	ND-84 ug/L; 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile=36 ug/L, 0 of 50 above AL	ug/L	1300 ug/L	1300 ug/L	Home plumbing corrosion; natural erosion				
Fluoride	No	2/20	0.20-1.8, mg/L; Average 0.67 mg/L	mg/L	NA	2.2 mg/L	Added to water to prevent tooth decay				
Lead <sup>3</sup>	No	6/19	ND-284 ug/L; 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile =12.6 ug/L, 4 of 50 above AL	ug/L	0 ug/L	15 ug/L	Home plumbing corrosion; natural erosion				
Nickel	No	7/20	0.753-0.860 ug/L; Average=0.806 ug/L	ug/L	NE	NR	Nickel enters ground water and surface water by dissolution of rocks and soils, from atmospheric fall out; from biological decay and from waste disposal				
Manganese	No	8/18	0.89-6.2 ug/L; Average=2.1 ug/L	ug/L	NE	NR	Naturally occurring, indication of landfill contamination				
pН	No	8/20	7.36-8.32; Average=7.99	SU	NE	NR	Naturally occurring; adjusted for corrosion control				
Distribution System Turbidity	No	10/20	0.07-3.06 NTU; Average = 0.18 NTU	NTU	NE	TT-5 NTU	Soil runoff				
Entry Point Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	7/20	0.218 NTU highest level detected; Lowest monthly % <0.30 NTU=100%	NTU	NTU	NTU	Soil runoff				
Synthetic Organic Contaminants											
PFOS	No	2/20	2.0 ng/L	ng/L	NA	10 ng/L	Released into the environment through widespread use in commercial and industrial applications				
Microbiological Contaminants											
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	9/20	One positive sample	NA	NA	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment				
E. coli	No	ND	ND	NA	NA	Any positive sample	Human and animal fecal waste				
Disinfection By-products											
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/20	14-89 ug/L; LRAA = $64^4$	ug/L	NE	LRAA = 80	By-product of water disinfection (chlorination)				
Total Haloaetic Acids	No	2/20	7-55 ug/L; LRAA = $32^4$	ug/L	NE	LRAA = 60	By-product of water disinfection (chlorination)				
Radiological Contaminants											
Radium 228	No	7/19	ND	pCi/L	NE	NE	Erosion of natural deposits				
Combined Radium 226/228	No	7/19	ND	pCi/L	0	5.0	Erosion of natural deposits				



Cryptosporidium & Giardia					
	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Number of Samples Testing Positive Cryptosporidium	Number of Samples Testing Positive <i>Giardia</i>	Number of Samples Tested
Source Water	No	1/17	2	0	6

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. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU in the combined filter effluent. The regulations require that 95% of the entry point turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Our highest single system turbidity measurement, 0.218 NTU, for the year occurred in July, 2020.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 50 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, 50 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the sixth highest sample at 36 ug/L. The second highest sample was the fourth highest with a value of 41 ug/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 - The 90th percentile value was the sixth highest sample at 12.6 ug/L. The second highest sample was the fifth highest with a value of 13 ug/L. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the sites tested, because samples were taken following a lead service line replacement.

4 - This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

#### **Definitions and Abbreviations:**

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 in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

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

 $\underline{AL}$  = Action Level: The concentration of the highest contaminant

<u>*LRAA*</u> = Locational Annual Running Average



- <u>ND</u> = Not Detected: Laboratory analysis indicates the constituent is not present
- $\underline{NE}$  = Not Established
- $\underline{NA} = Not Applicable$
- $\underline{SU}$  = Standard Units
- $\underline{TT}$  = Treatment Technique

#### 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?

During 2020, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

#### INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2017, as part of our routine sampling, 6 samples were collected from Lake Erie and the Niagara River and were analyzed for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. Of these samples, none were positive for *Cryptosporidium*. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. 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.

#### **INFORMATION ON GIARDIA**

*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 2017, as part of our routine sampling, six samples were collected and analyzed for *Giardia* cysts. Of these samples, two were confirmed positive. Therefore, our testing indicates the presence of *Giardia* in our source 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.

#### **INFORMATION ON RADON**

Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

In 2019, we collected a sample from each water treatment plant that were analyzed for radon. The results showed no detection of the radiological parameters. For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).



#### 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 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 system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for 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. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. During 2020, monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 95% of the time.

#### INFORMATION ON UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

	COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED								
Arsenic	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Chlorpyrifos	Isopropylbenzene	PFDA					
4-Androstene-3,17-dione	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Chromium, Total	p-Isopropyltoluene	PFDoA					
Baygon	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Cobalt	Lindane	PFHxA					
2-Chlorotoluene	Alachlor	Cyanide	Mercury	PFTA					
4-Chlorotoluene	Aldicarb	Cylindrospermopsin	Methiocarb	PFTrDA					
17beta-Estradiol	Aldicarb Sulfone	Dalapon	Methomyl	PFUnA					
17alpha-Ethynyl estradiol	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Di-n-butyl phthalate	Methoxychlor	Permethrin					
2,4-D	Aldrin	Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	Methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE)	Pichloram					
1,3 Butadiene	alpha -BHC	Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	Methylene Chloride	Profenofos					
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Anatoxin-a	Dibromochloropropane	Metolachlor	Propachlor					
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	Asbestos	Dibromomethane	Metribuzin	Propylene Glycol					
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	Atrazine	Dicamba	Oxamyl (Vydate)	n-Propylbenzene					
1,1-Dichloroethane	Benzene	Dichlorodifluoromethane	Oxyfluorfin	Quinoline					
1,2-Dichloroethane	Benzo(a)pyrene	Dieldrin	PCB 1016	Radium 226					



	COMPOUN	DS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED	(continued)	
1,1-Dichloroethylene	Beryllium	Dimethipin	PCB 1221	Selenium
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Bromide	Dinoseb	PCB 1232	Simazine
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Bromobenzene	Diquat	PCB 1242	Styrene
1,2-Dichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	Endothall	PCB 1248	Tebuconazole
1,3-Dichloropropane	Bromomethane	Endrin	PCB 1254	Tetrachloroethylene
2,2-Dichloropropane	Butachlor	Equillin	PCB 1260	Thallium
1,1-Dichloropropene	Butylated hydroxyanisole	Estriol	Pentachlorophenol	Toluene
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	n-Butylbenzene	Estrone	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	o-Toluidine
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	sec-Butylbenzene	Ethoprop	Perfluoroheptanoic acid	Total Mircocystin
1,4-Dioxane	t-Butylbenzene	Ethylbenzene	Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	Toxaphene
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Cadmium	Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	Perfluoronanoic acid	Tribufos
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	Carbaryl	Glyphosate	Perfluorooctane sulfonate	Trichloroethylene
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	Carbofuran	Gross Alpha Particles	Perfluorooctanoic acid	Trichlorofluoromethane
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Carbon Tetrachloride	Gross Beta Particles	11CI-PF3OUDS	Vinyl Chloride
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Chlordane	Heptachlor	9CL-PF30NS	Xylenes (o,m and p)
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Chlorobenzene	Heptachlor Epoxide	ADONA	
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Di-Chlorodifluoromethane	Hexachlorobenzene	N-E-t-FOSAA	
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Chloroethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	N-MeFOSAA	
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Chloromethane	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	HFPO-DA	

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020 Salamanca Board of Public Utilities 225 Wildwood Avenue, Salamanca, New York 14779

City of Salamanca, Public Water Supply ID#NY0400349 Town of Great Valley WD #1, Public Water Supply ID#NY0412218 (Killbuck) Town of Great Valley WD #4, Public Water Supply ID#NY0430052 (Highland Ave.)

#### Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Salamanca Board of Public Utilities 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 calendar 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 Dennis Hensel at (716) 945-3130. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Salamanca Board of Public Utilities' Monthly Commission Meetings.

#### What are the sources of our water?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 originates from twelve wells, ranging in depth from 50 feet to more than 80 feet. Eleven wells (WF) are located near Water Street in the center of the City of Salamanca. Another well (GV) is located at the extreme eastern boundary of the City near Great Valley Creek. Since natural filtration of the ground water through an extensive sand and gravel aquifer occurs, only chlorination is required prior to distribution to our customers. The storage tanks, which are located on Newton Run in the City of Salamanca, usually contain between 3.5 and 4 million gallons, which equates to 3.5 to 4 days reserve capacity. During 2020, our system did not experience any water use restrictions.

In 2003, the NYS DOH completed a source water assessment for our water system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking waters sources 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 wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential contamination of the source water. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are 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 was mentioned before, our water is derived from twelve wells. The source water assessment has rated the combined susceptibility to contamination for these wells as high from cations/anions (salts, sulfate), enteric viruses, halogenated solvents, herbicides/pesticides, nitrates, other industrial organics and petroleum products; and medium high from enteric bacteria, metals and protozoa. These ratings for the wells are due to their proximity to industrial activities. While the assessment rates our source as being susceptible to enteric bacteria, 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.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us as noted above.

#### **Facts and Figures**

The Salamanca Board of Public Utilities is the supplier of potable water to Customers in the City of Salamanca and in portions of the Townships of Salamanca and Great Valley. There are presently 2,687 service connections, representing an estimated 6,150 potable water users.

The total water produced in 2020 was 454 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 1,243,835 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 1,892,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was nearly 59% of the actual production. The additional quantity of water was used to flush mains, fight fires, for fire training, and leakage. In 2020, water customers were charged \$3.06 per 1,000 gallons of water. Average monthly potable water charges for a family of three should be about \$24.16, or about 81 cents per day. Charges for customers residing in the Townships of Salamanca and Great Valley are presently 175% of those of the City of Salamanca.

#### Are contaminants in our drinking water?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include coliform bacteria, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological 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. All of this data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Also available at the Salamanca Board of Public Utilities' business office, is a list of analytical results for parameters where there were no detections.

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 Cattaraugus County Health Department at (716) 701-3386. Information is also available from the EPA website: https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations.

			Table of I	Detected	Contami	inants	
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measure- ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectants							
Chlorine Residual				mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control
- City	No	2020	Avg. = .34 (.1153)				microbes.
- G.V. Dist. #1	No	2020	Avg. = .36 (.45)				
- G.V. Dist. #4	No	2020	Avg. = .23 (.1735)				
<b>Inorganic Contar</b>	ninants	1		1	1	L	
Copper <sup>1</sup> - City of Salamanca & Town Districts	No	6/9/20	202 (19 - 267)	ug/l	1,300	AL = 1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead <sup>2</sup> - City of Salamanca & Town Districts	No	6/9/20	2.2 (ND – 2.7)	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	4/29/20	High = 1.23 (.87 – 1.23)		10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection By-P</b>	roducts						
Total Trihalomethanes - City	No	8/11/20	13	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHms are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

1 - The levels presented represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 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 or lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected within the City and Town districts and the 90th percentile value for copper was the third highest value, 202 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 - The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values for lead in the City System and the Town Districts combined was 2.2 ug/l. None of the samples exceeded the action level of 15 ug/l for lead.

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

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb). **Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm).

N/A: Not applicable.

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

#### 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 at values well below the level allowed by the State. Regardless, we are required to provide the following information on lead in drinking water. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The City of Salamanca 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

#### Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

On August 28, 2019, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) conducted a sanitary survey of our water systems. Two deficiencies were noted and are listed below.

- Individual sample taps for each source at the well field were not available. If necessary, this situation would not allow for "triggered source water monitoring" as required by the US EPA's Ground Water Rule. However, please note that in December 2019 we installed taps for half of the well field when the original piping was replaced. We are currently applying for grant funding to replace the remaining old well piping plus other necessary capital improvements.
- 2) No standby power is provided at either well house. However, we do have a diesel pump at the Water Street treatment plant that can pump chlorinated water but at a rate lower than the average day demand. Due to available storage this should not create a problem unless power remained off for more than a day or a major fire occurred. New generators could be installed at both water plants if the new grants being applied for come through.

We are working with the CCHD to ensure that the required corrective actions are being taken.

#### 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 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/DCD 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 saving water is a good idea.

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 costs 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 and helps 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 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 those 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 Board of Public Utilities is committed to serving the community by revamping and modernizing the water production and treatment process to take advantage of the most effective and economical technology available. Improvements have recently taken place and more will be undertaken in the near future in response to the changing environment and stricter government regulations.

#### Water System Security

The Board of Public Utilities would like to remind residents to remain vigilant of any suspicious activity regarding the water distribution system. Please report any suspicious activity to the Board of Public Utilities or the Salamanca Police Department.

#### Closing

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and 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 the community and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.