

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010

The Seneca Nation of Indians

Introduction

The Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) is pleased to issue this annual report describing the quality of the drinking water delivered to your tap during the year 2010. The purpose of this report is to help you understand what you are using in your daily lives, and to make you more educated consumers.

We are proud to tell you that last year, the water provided for your use met every United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standard for safety, except for one non-repeatable violation in the Shelton Park Water System (numerous resampling and reanalysis showed the water was safe to drink). This report contains information to help everyone understand more about their drinking water.

If, after reading this report, you have any questions about your drinking water, please contact Steve Tome, Sanitarian, at 716-945-5894.

Sources of Water

Cattaraugus Territory

In 2010, drinking water was produced by the Richardson Road Well as well as purchased from the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA), which like the Nation, had no drinking water quality violations (the Annual Water Quality Report from the ECWA is available for review at the offices of the Health Department in Irving, NY and in Salamanca, NY). All water purchased from the ECWA is disinfected and fluoridated by the ECWA prior to distribution to consumers.

A sanitary survey of the facilities used to provide drinking water to residents of the Cattaraugus Territory was conducted on August 18, 2010. The results of this survey indicate that there are no issues in this system which would adversely affect the quality of the water that is distributed to consumers.

Allegany Territory

Jimersontown Community Water System: On November 2, 2009, the Jimersontown Water Treatment Plant was placed on line, providing disinfected groundwater to customers in the administrative complex, Casino and Jimersontown community. In 2010, there were no detectable contaminants in the Jimersontown Community Water System.

Steamburg Community Water System: There were no detectable contaminants for the Steamburg Community Water system during 2010.

Sullivan Hollow Water System: There were no detectable contaminants for the Sullivan Hollow system during 2010.

Shelton Park: On October 7, 2010, there was a positive result for coliform bacteria at 10 colonies per 100 milliliters of water, an indicator of possible bacterial contamination, at the Shelton Park water system. The owner was notified as the water was deemed unsafe as sampled. In accordance with USEPA standards, numerous follow-up samples were collected in the days following, and all results were non-detect, indicating that the water was safe. The cause of this event was most likely a chlorine residual that was temporarily too low.

A sanitary survey of the community water system facilities used to provide drinking water to residents of the Allegany Territory was conducted on August 17, 2010. The results of this survey indicate that there are no issues in these water systems which would adversely affect the quality of the water distributed to consumers.

Contaminants in Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People with compromised immune systems, 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.

On a monthly basis, all SNI water facilities are sampled and tested for microbiological quality and chlorine residual. Our drinking water was in complete compliance with the associated standards, as no microorganisms were ever detected, and a chlorine residual was always detected (a chlorine residual is important in the distribution system to prevent the growth of any microorganisms).

Other analyses were performed on a less frequent basis, as required, including organic chemicals, radioactivity, and lead and copper. There were no violations of these standards, or any results above detection limits.

What Does All of This Mean?

The information presented in this report is meant to make you aware of the importance placed on providing safe drinking water. This quality water is not produced by accident. Certified operators, licensed by the New York State Department of Health, are responsible for operating the facilities that produce your water. Samples are taken by trained professionals and are analyzed and certified by contract laboratories. It is up to you, the consumer, to help us continue to provide water of excellent quality by informing us if you are experiencing problems with taste, odor, color, or lack of pressure in your homes or businesses.

Erie County Water Report

Since this utility provided some of the water to The Seneca Nation during 2010, their annual water report is included for your review.