

# **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2012**

## **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 in 2012. 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. In other words, SNI did not have one single violation of drinking water quality standards. 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 2012, all drinking water for the Cattaraugus Territory was bought from the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA). Both SNI and ECWA had no drinking water quality violations. The Annual Water Quality Report from Erie County is attached at the end of this document. All water purchased from ECWA is disinfected and fluoridated prior to distribution to consumers.

The Seneca Nation of Indians samples the water within its distribution system. Table 1 summarizes the results of detected contaminants.

**TABLE 1  
DETECTED CONTAMINANTS  
CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL or AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	N	8/26/2009	184	ug/l	2,000	MCL = 2,000	Natural sources
Nitrate	N	8/26/2009	2.77	mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Agricultural runoff; natural sources
Lead	N	9/11/2012	<1*	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Household plumbing corrosion; natural sources; wood preservatives
Copper	N	9/11/2012	21*	ug/l	1,300	AL = 1,300	Household plumbing corrosion; natural sources
Gross Alpha	N	8/26/2009	2.58 ± 2.21	pCi/l	0	MCL = 15	Natural sources
Radium 228	N	8/26/2009	0.248 ± 0.331	pCi/l	0	MCL = 5	Natural sources
Haloacetic Acids	N	6/27/2012	0.024	mg/l	n/a	MCL = 0.06	Disinfection By-Product
Trihalomethanes	N	6/27/2012	0.04	mg/l	n/a	MCL = 0.08	Disinfection By-Product

\*Value at 90<sup>th</sup> percentile

Allegany Territory

All drinking water produced on the Allegany Territory comes from groundwater. Water delivered within the city limits is produced by the Salamanca Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Their annual water quality report is available online at [www.salamancabpu.com](http://www.salamancabpu.com)

Jimersontown Community Water System

The Seneca Nation of Indians samples the water within its distribution systems according to an approved sampling plan. Table 2 summarizes the results of detected contaminants.

**TABLE 2  
DETECTED CONTAMINANTS  
JIMERSONTOWN COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Unit of Measurement</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Regulatory Limit MCL or AL</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
Trichloroethylene	N	3/7/2012	0.0005	mg/l	0	MCL = 4	Industrial contamination
4-Chlorobenzotrifluoride	N	3/7/2012	0.00334	mg/l	0	MCL = 4	Industrial contamination
Trichloroethylene	N	7/30/2012	0.0014	mg/l	0	MCL = 4	Industrial contamination
4-Chlorobenzotrifluoride	N	8/8/2012	0.000583	mg/l	0	MCL = 4	Industrial contamination
Trichloroethylene	N	7/30/2012	0.0005	mg/l	0	MCL = 4	Industrial contamination

### Steamburg Community Water System

The Seneca Nation of Indians samples the water within its distribution systems according to an approved sampling plan. No contaminants were detected in the Steamburg Water System in 2012.

On 6/13/2012 there was a positive result for coliform bacteria at 20 colonies per 100 milliliters of water. Coliform is an indicator of possible bacterial contamination. In accordance with USEPA procedures, follow-up samples were collected and analyzed. All results were non-detect, indicating that the water was safe to drink. The cause of this event was likely a low chlorine residual or sampling error.

### Sullivan Hollow Community Water System

The Seneca Nation of Indians samples the water within its distribution systems according to an approved sampling plan. No contaminants were detected in the Sullivan Hollow Water System in 2012.

On 6/13/2012 there was a positive result for coliform bacteria at 2 colonies per 100 milliliters of water. Coliform is an indicator of possible bacterial contamination. In accordance with USEPA procedures, follow-up samples were collected and analyzed. All results were non-detect, indicating that the water was safe to drink. The cause of this event was likely a low chlorine residual or sampling error.

### Shelton Park Water System

The Seneca Nation of Indians samples the water within its distribution systems according to an approved sampling plan. No contaminants were detected in the Shelton Park Water System in 2012.

## **Contaminants in Drinking Water**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water possesses 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. 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.

On a monthly basis, all Nation 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, including organic chemicals, radioactivity, and lead and copper. There were no violations of these standards.

## **What Does All of This Mean?**

Aside from being required by the USEPA, the information presented in this report is meant to make you aware of the importance that is placed on providing water that is safe to drink. This quality water is not produced by accident. New York State Department of Health and United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) certified operators are responsible for operating the equipment that produces your water. Samples are taken by trained professionals, and are analyzed by contract laboratories certified by the EPA. 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.

## **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 using the best available treatment technology.

**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.

**mg/l:** milligrams per liter, which corresponds to one part of contaminant in one million parts of water.

**ug/l:** micrograms per liter, which corresponds to one part of contaminant in one billion parts of water.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter, which is a measurement of radioactivity in water.

