

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2018(Public Water Supply ID#1200248)
Andes Water District #1, P.O. Box 85, Andes, NY 13731*

February 21, 2019

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Andes Water District #1 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 State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and the results of annual sampling. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Mr. Andy Serrao**, Delaware Operations, 845-676-3990. We want you to know about your drinking water. The Town Board and I are very proud of the improvements we have made in the system and are always open to your comments/suggestions.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Andes Water District receives its water from a spring system southeast of the hamlet and has a back-up well behind the library. In general, 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 EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYSDOH and the FDA also regulate limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Your water requires great care in treatment and monitoring. Important new regulations are the Groundwater Rule, Federal Radionuclides Rule, the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products Rule, the Lead and Copper Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. For more information about these requirements, call the Water Operators 676-3990. As stated above, our water source is a reservoir spring above Route 28 at the east end of the hamlet and a drilled well behind the Library.

OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

Our water system was again safe and reliable in 2018. The district has been performing the usual maintenance. In 2015, the NYS Department of Health has recommended that a secondary well source be developed and the Town has acquired funding to do so. In October of 2016, a test well was sunk above High Street. It was discovered that the water quality there was not sufficient. The District is still seeking a high quality source location. The NYSDEC has notified us that we need to introduce water meters into our system. NYC has indicated that they will assist us in installing meters in the commercial properties. For all other customers, the Town Board hopes to receive grant funding for the meter purchase and installation. Our current annual base rate for water is \$442.

If you have experienced frozen lines in the past, make a plan to allow your water to run at a trickle during very cold snaps. If you have questions about a frozen service, call 676-3990. Every frozen service has the potential to increase your water bills but overuse or misuse of water can also increase your costs now that we have filters on our water system! Please don't waste water! This winter has not been as cold as others and the system has not experienced too many frozen service lines.

NYS SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

NYS Department of Health has completed a source water assessment on our system, including a susceptibility rating based on the risk imposed by several potential sources of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the drinking water source. This susceptibility rating is an estimate and does not mean that the water delivered to you our customers is or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic chemicals) were detected in our water, all drinking water, even bottled water, may contain at least small amounts naturally and does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels, as well as those of inorganic chemicals, are considered low in comparison with other sources in our area.

The source water assessment has rated the well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates, because of the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (agricultural facilities which discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by state/federal government), septic systems, and low intensity residential activities within the assessment area. The well draws from a confined aquifer, likely providing adequate protection from potential contamination. The spring source is rated as having a medium susceptibility to microbials and other industrial contaminants, due to pasture and row crop land covers in the assessment area, but no permitted discharge or regulated facilities.

Thank you for allowing us to provide you with quality drinking water.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 350 people (157 customers and businesses) in the district.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous 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 per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

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CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	SAMPLE LOCATION	RESULTS
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)	9/6/2018	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	2.47 UG/L
FLUORIDE	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	0.18 MG/L
SELENIUM	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	0.009 MG/L
NICKEL	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	0.0012 MG/L
NICKEL	9/6/2018	SPRING WTP	0.001 MG/L
BARIUM	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	0.918 MG/L
BARIUM	9/6/2018	SPRING WTP	0.012 MG/L
ARSENIC	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	4.9 UG/L
NITRATE	9/6/2018	LIBRARY WELL TREATMENT PLANT	0.08 MG/L
NITRATE	9/6/2018	SPRING WTP	0.41 MG/L

A summary of the chemicals to be tested for in upcoming years is available at the WWTP plant 676-3990, as well as information on this report. (in the table above, UG/L represents micrograms per liter of water; MG/L represents milligrams per liter.)

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Our drinking water met state and federal regulations, but as you can see from the above chart, there are naturally occurring substances present because we utilize a surface source. We have noted very low incidence of microorganisms or pathogens. With filtration and UV treatment our water is very safe. The following caution is required by NYSDOH and the EPA: 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).

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