

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016***  
***Town of Shawangunk – Hamlet of Wallkill Water District***  
***Reservoir Road, Wallkill, NY 12589***  
***Public Water Supply ID# 5503393***

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Hamlet of Wallkill Water System, 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 James Russell, operator, at 845 895-3001. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the town hall.

## **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, 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 system serves 1500 people through 548 service connections. Our water source is one main groundwater well and 2 backup groundwater wells. In late winter 2014, the roof to the reservoir caved in due to high winds and a heavy snow load. The reservoir has been bypassed and new well pumps were installed so the water is now pumped directly to the 500,000 gallon storage tank, located on the property of Wallkill High School. The water is chlorinated prior to entering the distribution.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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. While nitrates were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See section "Are there 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 mentioned before, our water is derived from 1 drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials; nitrates; industrial solvents; and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the fact that the well draws from an unconfined aquifer at a rate of greater than 100 gallons per minute, and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finishes water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

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

### ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, 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. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

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 Ulster County Health Department at 845 338-7019.

**Table of 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
<b><i>Inorganic Contaminants</i></b>							
Barium	No	3/14	.0209	Mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	No	3/14	1.5	Ug/l	N/a	100	Naturally occurring in low levels
Nitrate	No	4/16	0.46	Mg/l	10	MCL=10	Run off from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	6/14	2.8 (3) ND - 5.1	Ug/l	0	AL- 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits