

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2013*  
*Holland Water District #1*  
*47 Pearl St. Holland N.Y. 14080*  
*(Public Water Supply ID#1410126)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Holland Water District, 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 Jerry Barron, Water Department @ 716-537-9443. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings, held in the Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm.

## **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 1580 through 380 service taps. Our water source is a well that produces 135 gallons a minute, located in the Hamlet. Our source is a deep bedrock well, with 50 feet of clay cap, protected by a masonry building. The water is aerated in a cascade tower to remove sulfur gas, ortho-phosphate is added, and it is disinfected with the injection of chlorine before it is pumped into the distribution system. The average water rate is \$3.80 per thousand gallons, with a quarterly capital improvement charge of \$24.30. A source water assessment of our system has been performed and the results of this assessment can be obtained at the town office.

In 2013 Holland Water Department pumped 46,000,000 gallons at our Water Street pumping station. Some of this water is used for flushing water mains, fighting fires, training firefighters, plant processes, equipment and hydrant testing and some of this water was lost due to leaks. 32,000,000 was sold to customers.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**



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**Radioactive Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation	Sample Date	Level Detected	Unit of measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely source.
Radium 228	No	3/23/10	1.2	PCi/L	0	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
"Gross Alpha (including Radon and Uranium)	"	3/23/10	1.9	"	"	"	"
"Combined Radium-226 & 228"	"	3/23/10	.1	"	"	"	"
"	"			"	"	"	"

**Notes:**

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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 10 samples were collected from your water system and the percentile value was ND. All samples were ND, as noted in the table. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 – Samples ranged from ND to 4.

4.--Highest iron level detected .39

**2012 Disinfection Byproducts Results**

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Contaminant	Violation	Sample Date	Level Detected	Unit of measure	Mclg	Regulatory Limit	Source of Contamination
HALOACETIC ACID (mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	no	8/10/11	1.3	Ug/l	60	n/a	By product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	8/10/11	20.0	Ug/L	80	n/a	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms

**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.

**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.

**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).

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our operating and monitoring requirements, that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

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. Holland Water District 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>.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, but we have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. Although nitrate was detected below the MCL, it was detected at <0.05. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on nitrate in drinking water:

"Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from you health care provider."

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2013, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating and monitoring requirements. Nitrate and a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter manganese test were not reported as scheduled. During the annual Dept. of Health inspection the following maintenance recommendations were identified:

\*New source development 5-71a The Town of Holland is applying for a source water permit for the Legion Drive well site, with the intent of this well going online in the future.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

We constantly test for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with regulatory requirements.

## **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).

## **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 fire fighting 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office @ 716-537-9443 if you have any questions.