

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010

## Long Lake Water District #2 - Public Water Supply ID NY2000129

To comply with State and Federal regulations, Water District #2 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 how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Water Superintendent Joe Tokarz at (518) 624-2199. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. They are held on the second and last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM unless otherwise advertised.

One question that comes up periodically can be answered by clarifying the fact that the Town of Long Lake is responsible for two water districts. One is in Long Lake (sometimes referred to as Water District #2) and the other is in Raquette Lake (sometimes referred to as Water District #1). The two districts are in no way connected: they are located in geographically unique areas and serve a totally different customer base.

### **Where does our water come from?**

In general, all 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 or inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and even 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 contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The New York State Health Department's ("DOH") and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Long Lake Water District #2 water source is known as *Big Sandy Creek* and is located approximately 1¼ miles, as the crow flies, southeast of Route 28N on State Forest Preserve Land. Water is also taken at times from *Little Sandy Creek*, near the filtration plant. The water is filtered by diatomaceous earth and is then treated with chlorine for disinfection prior to distribution. In addition, per DOH regulations, we are treating with a blend of ortho and poly phosphates to reduce the corrosive quality of our water. Our water system serves over 765 service connections.

## Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As DOH regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table below depicts which compounds were detected. The DOH allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. Turbidity and chlorine residual levels are monitored 24 hours a day.

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 New York State Health Department (518-891-1800).

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	10/25/10	0.35	NTU	n/a	TT=<5NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	2010	100% < 1.0	NTU	n/a	TT=95%of samples <1.0NTU	Soil Runoff
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 228	No	2008	0	PCI/L	0	5 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	No	2008	0	pCi/L	0	15 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	2008	0	pCi/L	0	50 (MCL)	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	No	8/10	0.007	mg/L	2	2(MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	11/10	0.22	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	8/10	0	mg/l	2.2	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	No	12/04	0.1	mg/L	n/a	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Manganese	No	12/04	0.03	mg/L	n/a	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Chloride	No	12/04	4	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sulfate	No	12/05	6	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium <sup>4</sup>	No	12/04	3.4	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring; road salt.
Copper	No	9/08	0.83 <sup>2</sup> 0.21-1.3 <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	No	9/08	0.004 <sup>2</sup> ND-0.007 <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts Stage 1</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	8/10	40	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	8/10	8.5	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts Stage 2</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	n/a	2009	19-55 Range of 6 samples	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	n/a	2009	2.7- 38 Range of 6 samples	ug/l	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**NOTES:**

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of our water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our single highest measurement for the year occurred on 10/25/10 (0.35 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 1.0NTU. 100% of the samples collected in 2009 were below 1.0NTU.

2 - The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

3 - The level presented represents a range of the lead and copper samples collected. The action level for copper and for lead was not exceeded at any location.

4 - Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on very restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

**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.

**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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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).

**Pico curies per liter (pCi/L) -** Pico curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

**What does this information mean?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing 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 and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Long Lake 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?**

Last year our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

#### *Health Risks:*

Although our drinking water met or exceeded DOH and federal regulations it should be noted that 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

#### *“Lake-Lines”*

Water District #2 has a lake-line system, which serves many homes. The Town will, *at some unknown point in the future*, be required by the DOH to phase out the use of lake lines.

**If you know that a lake-line has been broken - please let us know immediately.** It can save water personnel countless hours of searching for the break and return water service more quickly to all who are affected. In addition, if your home or camp is served by one of these lines and you lose water pressure at your home or camp, you must assume there is a break in the line and **prepare your drinking water by boiling it for one minute at a rolling boil before consuming it.** The water department will notify you once the line is safe to drink from.

### **Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS Department of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The assessment area for this drinking water source contains no discrete potential contamination sources, and the land cover contaminant prevalence ratings are low. However, the high mobility of microbial contaminants in surface reservoirs results in this drinking water intake having medium-high susceptibility ratings for protozoa and enteric bacteria and viruses. Furthermore, reservoirs can be highly susceptible to water quality problems caused by phosphorus additions to the reservoir. The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us.

## Why save water and how to avoid wasting it?

While it may seem counterintuitive to economize water in an area where lakes, ponds and streams abound, there is still a need to protect and conserve this resource. Climate changes can have a significant effect on the supply and in fact, in the recent past, some scientific data has indicated that the Adirondacks have experienced less annual precipitation. In periods of drought, our water system has struggled to meet demands during times of peak usage. Conserving water also preserves a vital resource which our lives depend upon: since it is not endless, it should not be abused.





But there are more reasons why it is important to conserve water. Saving water saves costs associated with providing potable water. Saving water reduces energy consumption and the need to construct costly pumping systems. 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's not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle: load it to capacity before you run it.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- When washing dishes or pots & pans by hand, only turn the tap on when rinsing them.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks and repair them.
- Check your toilets for leaks: put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and watch 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!
- Install water saving devices in your home. For more details, talk to the Water Department.
- Report possible water main leaks to the Water Department.
- Correct conditions in your water service that will prevent the need to run "bleeders" in the winter. (For financial help or incentives to make corrections, read further.)
- Commercial or residential water users whose properties are next to a lake or a pond could rig up a system to pump water from the lake or pond for lawn or garden watering.
- For more information and tips about how to save water, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).
- Water gardens, flowers, and lawns smartly: use drip lines or soaker hoses when possible to target plants. Water early morning or late in the day (not during the 'heat' of the day).

## DID YOU KNOW?

A dripping faucet could waste from 1000 to 6000 gallons in a year? A continuous leak from a hole sized as follows, at 60 psi water pressure, would, over a three month period, waste water in the following amounts:

Diameter of stream		Gallons
1/4"		1,181,500
3/16"		666,000
1/8"		296,000
1/16"		74,000

A word about “bleeders”. It is the practice of a number of home owners to run a hose all winter to prevent the freezing of the home’s water lines. In most cases, this practice is the result of a faulty design in the plumbing and it can be corrected. Be advised that at in the future, (*date unknown at this time*), the Town will be forced (by regulatory oversight agencies) to adopt a law against running bleeders. Those of you who practice this should begin thinking about and planning how to fix your problem. Remember that the water flowing out of your hose adds cost to the entire District; using the diameter example above, you can calculate how many gallons you are “bleeding”. FYI, there are funds available through the Hamilton County “Home Improvement Program”: some homeowners may qualify for this assistance to remedy a water line freezing problem. Call Avalon Associates, Inc. at (518)798-0777 if you want to pursue this.

### ***A Message from Supervisor Seaman:***

*Last year we started several projects related to our water district improvement project. They included the new water storage tank on Stanton Hill, the Bissell Pit well pump station and the new water main installation on Route 28N. While these have been partially completed, there is more to do this summer.*

*Our new water tank was completed last year. However, we weren't able to finish installing the new waterline to the tank last fall. Consequently, work has already begun this spring on completing the new water main up to the water tank. The contractor has returned and is connecting services to the new water main on Route 28N. Our water department crew will be completing installation of new water main and equipment at Bissell Pit this summer. Our goal is to have the new water tank and Bissell Pit wells online by the end of summer.*

*Our next project will be to develop the Stanton Hill pump station to incorporate the Stanton Hill wells into our water system. Work on this will begin once all permits are approved and received. We hope that will be sometime this fall. These wells, in conjunction with the Bissell Pit wells, should provide us with sufficient water so that we can mothball our current water treatment plant.*

*Again this summer our water department will be heavily involved in these various projects while they continue to operate and maintain our water system. It promises to be another busy and challenging summer season for them but they are up to the task!*

*Sincerely, Clark J. Seaman, Town Supervisor*

**Closing**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with water. The Long Lake Water Department works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers do their part in protecting our water sources: this means not only from pollution, but from vandalism or from acts of terrorism. Our water system is at the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Sincerely, Joe Tokarz, Keith Austin