

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021*  
*System Name –Cowlesville Water District*  
*System Address 905 Old Alleghany Road, Attica NY 14011*  
*(Public Water Supply ID# NY6030016)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Cowlesville Water System 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. 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 **Ellen Grant, Town Supervisor, or Mark Pruitt, Water System Operator, at 591-2157**. 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. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bennington Center.

## **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 is provided by the Erie County Water Authority (Public Water Supply #NY1400443). You are able to read through the ECWA 2021 Annual Report by accessing their website [www.ecwa.org](http://www.ecwa.org), or you may request a paper copy from our office. Our water system serves approximately 200 people through 98 connections. The daily average of water used was 22,854.79 gallons per day. The total water purchased was 8,342,000 gallons.

As the State regulations require, the Erie County Water Authority routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. A listing of detected contaminants can be found within the enclosed Erie County Report. In addition, the state and Wyoming County Public Health Department requires us to perform additional total coliform testing, and other sampling. As you can see by the table on the reverse, 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.

Notice for hydrant flushing will be printed in the Attica Pennysaver, posted at the store in Cowlesville, at the Town Hall, on the Town website and included with the water bill prior to the date of the flushing. Hydrants are maintained by the Water Department and tested by both the workers and the Cowlesville Fire Company during their authorized uses of the hydrants.

Copies of the Rules and Regulations of the Water District are available for all owners. Please be aware that per Article IX Section B of the regulations, all bills are due when rendered and payment is required on or before the due date shown on said bill. Penalty for Delinquency (Section C) authorizes the Town, if the bill is not paid within sixty (60) days after the bill becomes delinquent, the Town has the option to shut off water service until all prior balances, penalties and interest, and restoration of service charges are paid.

In 2021 the Highland Glen community connected to our water system as a bulk, out of district customer. This action will help the Glen provide sufficient, quality water to their residents during dry and drought periods. During 2022, the Water District will be participating with the Wyoming County Water Resource Agency in a

grant funded program to replace water meters throughout the district. Property owners will be notified prior to the changes being made.

Any questions regarding the water system, use of hydrants, fees for new hook-ups, seasonal turn-offs, etc., can be directed to the Town Hall or to the Water System Operator. If there are any changes in billing names, addresses or contact information, please send the information to the Town Hall, 905 Old Alleghany Road, Attica NY 14011.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane and bromoform)	No	8/26/21	73	ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs and Haloacetic acids are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	No	8/26/21	4.2	ug/l	n/a	60	
Chlorine Residual	No	Various	Ave=1.0 Range = .6 to 1.0	mg/l	n/a	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead <sup>1</sup>	No	8/2019	6.7	ug/l	0	A.L.= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper <sup>2</sup>	No	8/2019	0.056	mg/l	1.3	A.L.= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

1 The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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 values detected at your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the average of the two highest values (6.7 ug/l). The range was from not detected to 12.8 ug/l.

2 The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 sites tested. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the average of the two highest values (0.056 mg/l). The range for copper was from 0.003 to 0.0825 mg/l.

**Lead.** 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. Cowlesville 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>



## Erie County Water Authority

295 Main Street • Room 350 • Buffalo, NY 14203-2494  
716-849-8484 • Fax 716-849-8463

Office of the Commissioners

March 10, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Bulk Water System Customer:

Attached please find the Erie County Water Authority's ("Authority") 2021 Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) supplement. We are forwarding this supplement to you for your use in preparing your system's report.

This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of both the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health.

We are pleased to report that the Authority's water system operated under "NO VARIANCE OR EXEMPTION" from any federal or state regulatory requirements.

The Authority is proud of these results and will continue its proactive efforts to provide customers with high quality water at a very affordable rate.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report or prefer a paper copy, please contact Sabrina Figler, Director of Water Quality at 716-685-8574 or [sfigler@ecwa.org](mailto:sfigler@ecwa.org).

Sincerely,

**ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

Handwritten signature of Jerome D. Schad in black ink.

Jerome D. Schad, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Peggy A. LaGree in black ink.

Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Michele M. Iannello in black ink.

Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer

JDS:PAL:MMI:slz  
Attachment





## ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU in the combined filter effluent. The regulations require that 95% of the entry point turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Our highest single system turbidity measurement, 0.172 NTU, for the year occurred in May 2021.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 50 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, 50 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the sixth highest sample at 36 ug/L. The second highest sample was the fourth highest with a value of 41 ug/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The 90th percentile value was the sixth highest sample at 12.6 ug/L. The second highest sample was the fifth highest with a value of 13 ug/L. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the sites tested, because samples were taken following a lead service line replacement.

4 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.

### Definitions and Abbreviations:

**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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity more than 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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**AL** = Action Level. The concentration of the highest contaminant

**LRAA** = Locational Annual Running Average

**ND** = Not Detected. Laboratory analysis indicates the constituent is not present

**NE** = Not Established

**NA** = Not Applicable

**SU** = Standard Units

**TT** = Treatment Technique



## ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT

### 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.

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

During 2021, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

### INFORMATION ON *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM*

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2017, as part of our routine sampling, 6 samples were collected from Lake Erie and the Niagara River and were analyzed for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. Of these samples, none were positive for *Cryptosporidium*. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

### INFORMATION ON *GIARDIA*

*Giardia* is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. *Giardia* is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. During 2017, as part of our routine sampling, six samples were collected and analyzed for *Giardia* cysts. Of these samples, two were confirmed positive. Therefore, our testing indicates the presence of *Giardia* in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Giardia* may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to *Giardia* may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The *Giardia* parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where hand washing practices are poor.

### INFORMATION ON RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.

In 2019, we collected a sample from each water treatment plant that were analyzed for radon. The results showed no detection of the radiological parameters. For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1156) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

### 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).



# ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT

## INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, we monitor fluoride levels daily to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. During 2021, monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 99% of the time.

## INFORMATION ON UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED			
Contaminant	CAS Number	Chemical Name	Trade Name
Arsenic		Alachlor	Metribuzin
4-Androstene-3,17-dione		Aldicarb	Oxanlyl (Vydate)
Baygon		Aldicarb Sulfone	Oxyfluorfin
2-Chlorotoluene		Aldicarb Sulfoxide	PCB 1016
4-Chlorotoluene		Aldrin	PFDA
17beta-Estradiol		alpha -BHC	PFDoA
17alpha-Ethinyl estradiol		Anatoxin-a	PFHxA
2,4-D		Asbestos	PFTA
1,3 Butadiene		Atrazine	PFTDA
1,2-Dichlorobenzene		Benzene	PFUnA
1,3-Dichlorobenzene		Benzo(a)pyrene	Permethrin
1,4-Dichlorobenzene		Chlorpyrifos	Pichloran
1,1-Dichloroethane		Chromium, Total	Profenofos
1,2-Dichloroethane		Cobalt	Propachlor
1,2,3-Trichloropropane		Cyanide	Propylene Glycol
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene		Cyfluthrin	n-Propylbenzene
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene		Dalapon	Quinoline
			Radium 226
			1,1-Dichloroethylene
			cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
			1,2-Dichloropropane
			1,3-Dichloropropane
			2,2-Dichloropropane
			1,1-Dichloropropene
			cis-1,3-Dichloropropene
			trans-1,3-Dichloropropene
			1,4-Dioxane
			3-Hydroxycarbofuran
			2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)
			2,4,5-TP (Silvex)
			1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane
			1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane
			1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene



**ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT**

COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED (continued)			
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Di-Chlorodifluoromethane	Hexachlorobenzene	N-E-t-FOSAA
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Chloroethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	N-MeFOSAA
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Chloromethane	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	HFPO-DA
Beryllium	Dimethipin	PCB 1221	Selenium
Bromide	Dinoseb	PCB 1232	Simazine
Bromobenzene	Diquat	PCB 1242	Styrene
Bromochloromethane	Endothall	PCB 1248	Tebuconazole
Bromomethane	Endrin	PCB 1254	Tetrachloroethylene
Butachlor	Equillin	PCB 1260	Thallium
Butylated hydroxyanisole	Estriol	Pentachlorophenol	Toluene
n-Butylbenzene	Estrone	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	o-Toluidine
sec-Butylbenzene	Ethoprop	Perfluoroheptanoic acid	Total Microcystin
t-Butylbenzene	Ethylbenzene	Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	Toxaphene
Cadmium	Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	Perfluoromanoic acid	Tribufos
Carbaryl	Glyphosate	Perfluorooctane sulfonate	Trichloroethylene
Carbofuran	Gross Alpha Particles	Perfluorooctanoic acid	Trichlorofluoromethane
Carbon Tetrachloride	Gross Beta Particles	11Cl-PF3OUDS	Vinyl Chloride
Chlordane	Heptachlor	9Cl-PF3ONS	Xylenes (o,m and p)
Chlorobenzene	Heptachlor Epoxide	ADONA	