Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020
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 2020 Annual Report by accessing their website 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 19,608.22 gallons per day. The total water purchased was 7,157,000 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.

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 complete and return the enclosed account information form 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 Measur-ement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane and bromoform)	No	8/28/20	76	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	8/28/20	3.0	ug/l	n/a	60	
Chlorine Residual	No	Various	Ave=0.9 Range = .4 to 1.0	mg/l	n/a	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead[1]	No	8/2019	6.7	ug/l	0	A.L.= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper[2]	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 90th 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 90th 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 90th 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 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90th 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
2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT

ABOUT THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

The ECWA was created in 1949 by a special act of the New York State Legislature to ensure that the people and the industry of Erie County would have a safe, plentiful supply of water for the future. Since 1953, the ECWA has produced and reliably delivered water of the highest quality to its customers at an affordable rate. As an independent public-benefit corporation, ECWA is not an agency of New York State and is totally independent of Erie County government. ECWA operates as a financially self-sustaining public utility and pays all of its operating expenses from revenues generated by the sale of water to its over 500,000 customers.

To comply with State Regulations, ECWA, 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 New York State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report 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 Sabrina Figler, Director of Water Quality, @ 716-685-8574. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings. The schedule may be found on www.ecwa.org. Board and Committee meetings are also streamed live and archived for later viewing from this website.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled, 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 animal or human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic 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 systems. The State Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our source waters are Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The ECWA's Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant in the Town of Evans draws water from Lake Erie to supply the southern area of Erie County and some communities in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. The Van de Water Treatment Plant in the Town of Tonawanda draws water from the Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County as well as Monroe, Genesee and Wyoming counties. These two plants serve more than 500,000 people in Western New York. The water is treated by conventional treatment and filtration and chlorine disinfection.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2020, the ECWA produced approximately 26.4 billion gallons of high quality water for residential, commercial and industrial use in 36 municipalities. The highest single day produced 111.74 million gallons. Some of this was unmetered water, 37.2%, use for flushing water mains, fighting fires, training firefighters, plant processes, equipment and hydrant testing and loss due to leaks. Approximately 16.6 billion gallons were sold to our customers. In 2020, residential water customers paid $3.36/1000 gallons. The 2020 residential average customer bill was $83.04 per quarter of $332.16 for the year.

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, 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 for us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, through 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 @ 1-800-426-4791 or the Erie County Health Department @ 716-961-6800.

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Administrative Offices
295 Main Street, Room 350
Buffalo, New York 14203
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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**
Inorganic Contaminants & Physical Tests							
Antimony	No	7/20	0.0– 0.247 ug/L; Average=0.12 ug/L	ug/L	6.0 ug/L	6.0 ug/L	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardant; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium	No	7/20	0.0180-0.0185 mg/L; Average=0.018mg/L	mg/L	2.0 mg/L	2.0 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from electronics and production wastes
Chloride	No	6/20	16.3-28.1 mg/L; Average=19.7 mg/L	mg/L	NE	250 mg/L	Naturally occurring in source water
Chlorine	No	3/20	0.57-1.87 mg/L; Average=1.40 mg/L	mg/L	NA	MRDL=4.0 mg/L	Added for disinfection
Copper[2]	No	6/19	ND-84 ug/L; 90th percentile=36 ug/L, 0 of 50 above AL	ug/L	1300 ug/L	1300 ug/L	Home plumbing corrosion; natural erosion
Fluoride	No	2/20	0.20-1.8, mg/L; Average 0.67 mg/L	mg/L	NA	2.2 mg/L	Added to water to prevent tooth decay
Lead[3]	No	6/19	ND-284 ug/L; 90th percentile =12.6 ug/L, 4 of 50 above AL	ug/L	0 ug/L	15 ug/L	Home plumbing corrosion; natural erosion
Nickel	No	7/20	0.753-0.860 ug/L; Average=0.806 ug/L	ug/L	NE	NR	Nickel enters ground water and surface water by dissolution of rocks and soils, from atmospheric fall out; from biological decay and from waste disposal
Manganese	No	8/18	0.89-6.2 ug/L; Average=2.1 ug/L	ug/L	NE	NR	Naturally occurring, indication of landfill contamination
pH	No	8/20	7.36-8.32; Average=7.99	SU	NE	NR	Naturally occurring; adjusted for corrosion control
Distribution System Turbidity	No	10/20	0.07-3.06 NTU; Average = 0.18 NTU	NTU	NE	TT-5 NTU	Soil runoff
Entry Point Turbidity[1]	No	7/20	0.218 NTU highest level detected; Lowest monthly % <0.30 NTU=100%	NTU	NTU	NTU	Soil runoff
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
PFOS	No	2/20	2.0 ng/L	ng/L	NA	10 ng/L	Released into the environment through widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	9/20	One positive sample	NA	NA	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	No	ND	ND	NA	NA	Any positive sample	Human and animal fecal waste
Disinfection By-products							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/20	14-89 ug/L; LRAA = 64[4]	ug/L	NE	LRAA = 80	By-product of water disinfection (chlorination)
Total Haloaetic Acids	No	2/20	7-55 ug/L; LRAA = 32[4]	ug/L	NE	LRAA = 60	By-product of water disinfection (chlorination)
Radiological Contaminants							
Radium 228	No	7/19	ND	pCi/L	NE	NE	Erosion of natural deposits
Comb.Radium226&228	No	7/19	ND	pCi/L	0	5.0	Erosion of natural deposits

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Cryptosporidium & Giardia					
	Violation Yes/No	**Sample Date**	**Number of Samples Testing Positive *Cryptosporidium***	**Number of Samples Testing Positive *Giardia***	**Number of Samples Tested**
Source Water	No	1/17	0	2	6

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, 0.218 NTU, for the year occurred in July, 2020.

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 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).

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.

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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

NR = Not Regulated

SU = Standard Units

TT = Treatment Technique

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 2020, 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 commonly-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.

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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 (1-800-458-1158) 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 people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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).

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 on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. During 2020, monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 95% of the time.

INFORMATION ON UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED				
Arsenic	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Chlorpyrifos	Isopropylbenzene	PFDA
4-Androstene-3,17-dione	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Chromium, Total	p-Isopropyltoluene	PFDoA
Baygon	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Cobalt	Lindane	PFHxA
2-Chlorotoluene	Alachlor	Cyanide	Mercury	PFTA
4-Chlorotoluene	Aldicarb	Cylindrospermopsin	Methiocarb	PFTrDA
17beta-Estradiol	Aldicarb Sulfone	Dalapon	Methomyl	PFUnA
17alpha-Ethynyl estradiol	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Di-n-butyl phthalate	Methoxychlor	Permethrin

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COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED				
2,4-D	Aldrin	Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	Methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE)	Pichloram
1,3 Butadiene	alpha -BHC	Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	Methylene Chloride	Profenofos
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Anatoxin-a	Dibromochloropropane	Metolachlor	Propachlor
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	Asbestos	Dibromomethane	Metribuzin	Propylene Glycol
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	Atrazine	Dicamba	Oxamyl (Vydate)	n-Propylbenzene
1,1-Dichloroethane	Benzene	Dichlorodifluoromethane	Oxyfluorfin	Quinoline
1,2-Dichloroethane	Benzo(a)pyrene	Dieldrin	PCB 1016	Radium 226
1,1-Dichloroethylene	Beryllium	Dimethipin	PCB 1221	Selenium
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Bromide	Dinoseb	PCB 1232	Simazine
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Bromobenzene	Diquat	PCB 1242	Styrene
1,2-Dichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	Endothall	PCB 1248	Tebuconazole
1,3-Dichloropropane	Bromomethane	Endrin	PCB 1254	Tetrachloroethylene
2,2-Dichloropropane	Butachlor	Equillin	PCB 1260	Thallium
1,1-Dichloropropene	Butylated hydroxyanisole	Estriol	Pentachlorophenol	Toluene
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	n-Butylbenzene	Estrone	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	o-Toluidine
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	sec-Butylbenzene	Ethoprop	Perfluoroheptanoic acid	Total Mircocystin
1,4-Dioxane	t-Butylbenzene	Ethylbenzene	Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	Toxaphene
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Cadmium	Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	Perfluorononanoic acid	Tribufos
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	Carbaryl	Glyphosate	Perfluorooctane sulfonate	Trichloroethylene
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	Carbofuran	Gross Alpha Particles	Perfluorooctanoic acid	Trichlorofluoromethane

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COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR BUT NOT DETECTED				
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Carbon Tetrachloride	Gross Beta Particles	11Cl-PF3OUDS	Vinyl Chloride
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Chlordane	Heptachlor	9CL-PF30NS	Xylenes (o,m and p)
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Chlorobenzene	Heptachlor Epoxide	ADONA	
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	

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT:

The Erie County Water Authority encourages water conservation. Although the Lake Erie and the Niagara River are unlimited sources of a good supply of water, it must not be wasted. A few steps will preserve the resource for future generations and also save on your bill:

- Use low flow shower heads and faucets
- Use low-flush toilets
- Repair all leaks in your plumbing system
- Water your lawn sparingly early morning or late evening
- Wash your car with a bucket and a hose with a nozzle
- Don't cut the lawn too short; longer grass saves water

Each of the water conservation tips can save you more than 1000 gallons of water per month, giving you the ability to save up to $140 per year in your water bill.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

ECWA spent 30.3 million dollars in system-wide infrastructure upgrades including:

- Watermain Replacements: $19,419,127
- Ball Tanks & Pump Station upgrades including a new North Tank & Piping Modifications: $6,755,181
- Meters: $1,637,931
- Laboratory Instrumentation: $454,319
- High Service Replacement Pump at Sturgeon Point WTP: $130,000

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.

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For additional or large print copies of this report, please call 716-849-8444, or visit www.ecwa.org or email your request to questionscomments@ecwa.org.

New York State Department of Health Source Water Assessment

The New York State Department of Health completed a draft Source Water Assessment of the supply's raw water sources under the state's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The purpose of this program is to compile, organize, and evaluate information regarding possible and actual threats to the quality of public water supply (PWS) sources. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. These reports do not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies, which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels – intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The SWAP is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage areas deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this public water supply's raw water intakes. Separate assessments were completed for the Lake Erie source and the Niagara River source. The assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for the Lake Erie source. The amount of agricultural land in the assessment area results in elevated potential of disinfection byproduct precursors and pesticides contamination. While there are some facilities present, permitted discharges do not likely represent an important threat to source water quality based on their density in the assessment area. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: landfills. The assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for the Niagara River source. The amount of agricultural (and to a lesser extent residential) lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for microbials, disinfection byproduct precursors, and pesticides contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges, which results in elevated susceptibility for all contaminant categories. Non-sanitary wastewater discharges may also contribute to contamination. There is also considerable contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: chemical bulk storage, inactive hazardous waste sites, landfills, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act facilities and Toxics Release Inventory facilities. If you have any questions about New York State's Source Water Assessment Program, please contact the Director of Environmental Health, Erie County Health Department at (716) 961-6800.

The seal of the Partnership for Safewater as seen on this document indicates that we are part of a select group of water systems nationwide who have voluntarily committed themselves toward a proactive approach to strengthen the safety of drinking water for our customers above and beyond the current regulatory requirements. For additional information on the Partnership for Safewater visit www.awwa.org/science/partnership.

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