

# **ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2016 BRIARCLIFF MANOR WATER DISTRICT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In compliance with NYS regulations, the Briarcliff Manor (VBM) Water System (Public Water Supply ID Number 5903420) annually issues a report describing the quality of the drinking water provided to Briarcliff Manor water customers. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of the water provided to you by the Village and awareness of the need to protect the Village's 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 the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to NYS standards.

You can obtain additional information on the water system as well as learn of opportunities for public participation regarding water related issues at VBM Board of Trustees Meetings. The date and time of Board of Trustees Meetings is posted on our web site, [www.briarcliffmanor.org](http://www.briarcliffmanor.org). If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the Department of Public Works (DPW) at 941-9105.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

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. The water can also 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 New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS DOH and the FDA have regulations that establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

VBM's normal source of water is source of water is New York City's Catskill/Delaware system which consists of reservoirs located in Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties, all west of the Hudson River. The Catskill/Delaware system is the major source of water for New York City. The supply to VBM is provided from the Lower Catskill Aqueduct.

Prior to distribution to water customers, Lower Catskill water is treated with chlorine, as the primary disinfectant followed by a secondary level of disinfection, ultraviolet light, sodium hydroxide, orthophosphate and fluoride. Chlorine is used to meet the NYS Sanitary Code and Federal Safe Drinking Water Act disinfection requirements. Ultraviolet light is used to comply with the Federal Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Sodium hydroxide and orthophosphate are added to reduce the corrosion of in-home plumbing.

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in NYS that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) before it is delivered to us. 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, the NYS DOH requires that NYC DEP monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis.

None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that exceeded the 2.2 mg/l MCL.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The following discussion of source water quality from the NYC water supply system was prepared by the NYS DOH.

This Public Water Supply System obtains water from the NYC water supply system. Water either comes from the Catskill/Delaware watershed west of the Hudson River and/or from the Croton watershed in Putnam and Westchester counties. The NYC DEP implements a series of programs to evaluate and protect the source water quality within these watersheds. Their efforts focus on three important program areas: the enforcement of strengthened watershed rules and regulations; the acquisition and protection of watershed land; and an implementation partnership program that targets specific sources of pollution in the watershed. Due to these intense efforts, the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) methodology applied to the rest of NYS would not apply for this Public Water Supply. Information on water quality and protection efforts in these NYC watersheds can be found at the DEP's website: [www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed\\_protection](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection).

This Public water system obtains its water from both the Catskill/Delaware watershed west of the Hudson and the Croton watershed in Putnam and Westchester counties. The main water quality concern associated with land cover in these watersheds are agricultural and residential land use: these contribute microbial contaminants, pesticides and algae producing nutrients. There exist some concern associated with waste water, but advanced treatment which reduce contaminants are in place for most of these discharges. Additionally, the presence of other discrete facilities such as landfills, chemical bulk storage, etc. could lead to some local impact on water quality, but significant problems associated with these facilities are unlikely due to the size of the watershed and surveillance and management practices. In addition the shallow nature of the Croton Reservoir, along with excess algae nutrients and the presence of wetlands in the watershed, contribute to periods of elevated water color and disinfection by-products precursor levels.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The VBM water system serves 9,190 people in Briarcliff Manor and portions of the Towns of Mount Pleasant and Ossining through approximately 2,700 service connections. In 2016, the average amount of water treated and supplied to customers on a daily basis is 1.0 million gallons per day. The highest single day was 2.3 million gallons per day. In 2016, water customers residing in VBM were charged \$85.00 per 1,000 cubic feet of water. VBM instituted a "cascade rate" pricing policy which, in effect, is an escalation in water pricing as consumers use more water. This is both a conservation measure and price trigger for those users who consume excess water over the NYC DEP's monthly, per capita, allocation. The annual average water charge per residential user is approximately \$1,250 per year.

### **UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER**

Unaccounted for water is the difference between the volume of water pumped into the system and the volume registered by all customer meters. Absent the water loss due to individual water main breaks, the water used by the Fire Department (for fire fighting, training, drills and tank storage replacement), by the VBM Water Department for hydrant flushing, maintenance and repair and routine pipe leakage common for the age and running length of this system as well as recreational uses (sprinklers and our Village Pool) contributed to an unaccounted water usage of 10%. VBM's goal is to maintain unaccounted for water to within the 10% to 20% range suggested by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). We are very pleased with these results reflecting on our many years of determined work to lessen uncontrollable water loss.

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

As NYS regulations require, the VBM routinely tests the drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants tested for include: turbidity, lead and copper, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, total trihalomethanes, synthetic organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, haloacetic acids and radiological. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in our 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. Additionally, NYC conducts an extensive testing program of Catskill Aqueduct water. The results of NYC’s sampling program are available at [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/dep](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/dep).

Water quality is monitored daily by the VBM’s DPW. Bacteriological and chemical samples are collected as required by NYS Sanitary Code and analyzed by a NYS approved environmental laboratory.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

**Explanation of Water Quality Data**

This report is based on most recent tests conducted in the VBM Water District. Terms used in the Water Quality Table are:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL are set as close as possible to the MCL goal’s as feasible.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s are allowed 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.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water.
- ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- NDL – No designated limit.
- ND – Not Detected
- N/A – Not applicable

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Color	No	6/16	5 (1)	Units	N/A	MCL =15	Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter.
Sulfate	No	6/16	4.26 (1)	ppm	N/A	MCL =250	Naturally occurring.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	6/16	0.34 (1)	ppm	10	MCL =10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	6/16	9.5 (1)	ppm	N/A	NDL	Naturally occurring; indicator of Road salt
Phosphorus, Ortho	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 1.8 Range 0.1 -3.3	ppm	N/A	NDL	Water additive for Corrosion Control
Fluoride	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 0.8 Range 0.3 -1.2	ppm	N/A	MCL =2.2	Water Additive that promotes strong teeth
Zinc	No	6/16	0.01 (1)	ppm	N/A	MCL =5	Naturally occurring
Manganese	No	6/16	0.02 (1)	ppm	N/A	MCL = 0.3	Naturally occurring
Barium	No	6/16	0.02 (1)	ppm	2	MCL=2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	6/16	14.1 (1)	ppm	N/A	MCL =250	Naturally occurring; indicator of Road salt
Turbidity	No	1/16-12/16	1.0 (2)	NTU	N/A	MCL =5	Soil Runoff
Stage 2 TTHM'S	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 54.0(3) Range 33.1-60.8	ppb	N/A	MCL Avg=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Stage 2 Total HAA	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 47.8(3) Range 40.1-56.0	ppb	N/A	MCL Avg=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
pH	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 7.2 Range 6.4-8.2	pH units	N/A	NDL	
Chlorine Residual, Free	No	1/16-12/16	Avg 1.5 Range 0.5-2.2	ppm	N/A	MCL= 4.0	Water additive for disinfection
Total Coliform	No	1/16-12/16	<u>12 Months</u> 0 positive samples per month	N/A	N/A	MCL =2 or more positive samples per month	Naturally present in the environment
Lead	No	8/15 & 9/15(6)	5.0 (4) ND-40.0	ppb	0	Al=15	Corrosion of Household plumbing
Copper	No	8/15 & 9/15(6)	0.25 (5) 0.009-0.27	ppm	N/A	Al=1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha activity (including radium-226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	10/13	0.58(8)	pCi/L	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta particle and photon activity from man-made radionuclides	No	10/13	0.34(8)	pCi/L	0	MCL=50(7)	Decay of natural deposits
Combined Radium-226 & Radium-228	No	10/13	0.61(8)	pCi/L	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits

Footnotes

- (1) One sample per entry point per year is required for this parameter.
- (2) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored since it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfection. The highest turbidity for the year was 1.8 NTU which meets the Filtration Avoidance Criteria that the entry point turbidity cannot exceed 5 NTU.
- (3) This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.
- (4) The action level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percentage of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the lead values detected in the water system. In this case, the 90th percentile value was the 18th value (5.0 ppb). Hence, for the 90th percentile value, the action limit was not exceeded. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the sites tested. The house with a lead concentration of 40 ppb was re-tested after the kitchen faucet was changed. With a new faucet, the lead concentration was non-detectable.
- (5) The action level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 sites tested. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any site.
- (6) Sample taken once every three years
- (7) The State considers 50 pCi/L to be a level of concern for beta particles.
- (8) Collected at Catskill South sampling location.

Entry point samples for inorganic contaminants that were not detected include; chromium, cadmium, cyanide, nitrite, arsenic, iron, mercury, thallium, antimony, silver, beryllium, and selenium.

Organic contaminants that were tested for and not detected in the source water include:

Benzene, Bromobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Bromomethane, N-Butylbenzene, Sec-Butylbenzene, Tert-Butylbenzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, Chlorobenzene, Chloroethane, Chloromethane, 2-Chlorotoluene, 4-Chlorotoluene, Dibromomethane, 1,2-Dichlorobenzene, 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, Dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloroethane<sup>1</sup>, 1,1-Dichloroethene, cis-1,2-Dichloroethene, trans-1,2-Dichloroethene, 1,2-Dichloropropane, 1,3-Dichloropropane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, 1,1-Dichloropropene, cis-1,3-Dichloropropene, Trans-1,3-Dichloropropene, ethylbenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, Isopropylbenzene, p-Isopropyltoluene, Methylene Chloride, n-Propylbenzene, Styrene, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, Tetrachloroethene, Toluene, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethene, Trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene, p&m-Xylene, o-Xylene, (MEK), Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), (MIBK), Naphthalene, Vinyl chloride

1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-Dibromoethane, 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D, Dalapon, Dicamba, Dinoseb, Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Butachlor, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Simazine, bis(2-Ethylhexyl)adipate, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Aldicarb, Aldicarb sulfone, Aldicarb sulfone, Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Methomyl, Oxamyl, aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, lindane, methoxychlor, PCB's, propachlor, toxaphene,

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system has no violations. It should be noted that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected well below New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded in two of the samples collected. We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. The Briarcliff Manor 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>.

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

During 2016, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA**

Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microbial pathogens found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. NYC performs extensive testing on the water supply utilized by VBM for cryptosporidium and giardia. During the 2016 calendar year, Fifty-two (52) samples of Catskill Aqueduct water were collected and analyzed for giardia cysts and cryptosporidium oocysts. Of the 52 samples, four were positive for cryptosporidium and 19 samples were positive for giardia. While, the testing indicates the presence of cryptosporidium and giardia in our source water, NYC's monitoring program found no evidence that any cases of cryptosporidiosis or giardiasis have been attributed to the New York City water supply. Additionally, current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease.

Cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis are intestinal illnesses caused by microscopic pathogens (cryptosporidium and giardia) which can be water borne. 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. The Village encourages 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.

Ingestion of giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. Giardia is inactivated by disinfection. 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.

### **Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?**

Notwithstanding this very positive Annual Report, 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).

### **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

With the completion of the Full Water Supply Pump Station (FWSPS) in 2011, VBM's primary source of supply is the NYC's Lower Catskill/Delaware Aqueduct System. The Lower Catskill/Delaware Aqueduct System which supplies most of NYC and southern Westchester, has been given a waiver from filtration requirements, due to its water quality and NYC's watershed protection program. In the event that the Lower Catskill/Delaware Aqueduct System filtration waiver is removed, NYC has submitted plans calling for the construction of a filtration plant in the immediate vicinity of VBM's aqueduct connection. Thus, if at some later date, filtration of the Lower Catskill/Delaware Aqueduct System is required, VBM's connection is at the appropriate location to obtain filtered water from a NYC facility. The Croton Aqueduct connection will now only be utilized when NYC shuts down the Catskill Aqueduct for maintenance. Use of the Croton Aqueduct will be eliminated once the Delaware Aqueduct supply component of the FWSPS is completed.

### **Why Save Water and How to Avoid Wasting It?**

Although the Briarcliff Manor 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;
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions and assuring 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

**CLOSING**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the VBM DPW at 941-9105.

Sincerely,

*Phil Zegarelli*

Philip E. Zegarelli, Village Manager



**Village of Briarcliff Manor  
1111 Pleasantville Road  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510**



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