



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON  
BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

City Hall - Room 2  
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Clinton I. Young, Jr.  
Mayor

David A. Ford, Sr.  
Commissioner

Marianne Vogel  
Superintendent

YEAR 2008  
WATER QUALITY  
REPORT

PWS ID NY5903441

SHARE THIS REPORT WITH  
OTHERS! TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL  
COPIES, CALL THE BOARD OF  
WATER SUPPLY AT (914) 668-7820.

The Board of Water Supply of the City of Mount Vernon (**Public Water System Identification Number 5903441**) is pleased to present the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008, as required by Federal and State regulations. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and your awareness of the need to protect our drinking water resources. It provides information on where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares with standards set by Federal and State regulatory agencies. For more information or to discuss any drinking water issues, feel free to contact Marianne Vogel, Superintendent, at (914) 668-7820. Or, you may call the Westchester County Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Quality at (914) 813-5000. Your water bill also has useful information about your water supply. Further information about contaminants and potential health effects is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

**Source of Water Supply**

The Board of Water Supply receives all its water from New York City's Catskill / Delaware reservoir system, an unfiltered surface supply located in a protected watershed area in upstate New York west of the Hudson River. New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees the operation, maintenance, and protection of their reservoir system. It consists of 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes, all of which allow for maximum flexibility in delivering the highest quality water possible. The water travels through the Catskill and Delaware Aqueducts to the Kensico Reservoir, where it is blended under normal operating conditions. This blending enhances overall water quality. The Kensico Reservoir also acts as a large settling basin, since it takes from twenty to thirty days for the water to travel from one end to the other. During this time, any particulate matter or "turbidity" from spring run-off or heavy rains can settle out in the reservoir, thereby clarifying the water. From Kensico, the water continues south, entering Mount Vernon at two locations.

The first location takes its water from the 48" Kensico Line which is owned and operated by Westchester County Water District #1. Water enters the 48" Kensico Line from the Delaware Aqueduct at Shaft 22 in Yonkers. Under certain operating conditions, water can enter the Kensico Line at Kensico Reservoir and be delivered all the way south to Mount Vernon.

The second entry point for Mount Vernon is in south central Yonkers. Water from the Catskill Aqueduct passes into a large transmission main just before reaching Hillview Reservoir. It travels through Yonkers and into Mount Vernon.

From these entry points, the water enters the 106 miles of distribution piping to serve Mount Vernon's 68,381 residents through 10,170 metered service connections. In 2008 alone, 2.92 billion gallons of water coursed through the city's mains. The average daily flow was 7.98 million gallons (MG) and the highest single day was 9.96 MG. Unaccounted for water (resulting from service leaks and main breaks, fire fighting, hydrant flushing, under-registration of meters, and unauthorized use) comprised 14.4% of the total. The industry average is 25 to 35% unaccounted for water with anything below 20% considered a "tight" system.

**Water Treatment**

The water is chlorinated (for disinfection purposes) and fluoridated (for protection against tooth decay) by New York City DEP at Kensico Reservoir Shaft 18. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range from 0.8 to 1.2 mg/l (parts per million). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the DEP monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2008, monitoring showed fluoride

levels in your water were in the optimal range 90% of the time and levels did not exceed the MCL of 2.2 mg/l. During the other 10% of the time, there were brief interruptions in fluoridation in order to implement repairs and upgrades to the fluoride feed system. According to the NYSDOH, these brief interruptions are not expected to have a significant impact on dental health. Either Westchester County Water District #1 or Mount Vernon again adds chlorine at the entry point in order to provide a detectable chlorine residual throughout the distribution system. Additionally, sodium hydroxide is added for pH adjustment, and orthophosphate is added to coat the interior surface of the pipes, thereby shielding them from the corrosive action of the water. The goal of this treatment is to reduce the amount of lead and copper leaching into the water from the individual service lines and household plumbing. Test results indicate that it has been quite effective.

**Board of Water Supply Responsibilities**

The Board of Water Supply ensures Mount Vernon's compliance with all federal and state monitoring and reporting requirements, and maintains and repairs water mains, service lines (from the curb valve to the main), fire hydrants, and water meters. During 2008, the Water Board installed 21 and repaired 79 hydrants; installed, repaired, or replaced 257 meters; repaired 27 main breaks and 98 street side service leaks, replaced / installed 56 gate valves, and made 23 water taps and cut-ins. We also replaced 73 lead and 8 plastic service lines, the majority of them during the repair of street side leaks.

**Capital Improvements**

In 2008, the Board of Water Supply cleaned and cement lined 6,487 lineal feet of 6-inch water mains and 2,860 lineal feet of 8-inch mains in the area between Central Parkway and North Columbus Avenue north of the Cross County Parkway. This project increased the availability of water for fire fighting purposes and should reduce the number of off-color water complaints.

In 2009, the Board of Water Supply is planning to engage a private contractor to conduct a leak survey of the entire 106 miles of water mains. The purpose is to further reduce unaccounted for water and the cost of purchased water.

**Cost of Water**

Given that the typical annual consumption for a family of four is 100,000 gallons, the average quarterly water bill was approximately \$65. Residential water rates (which were raised from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per 100 cubic feet in April 2008) are still among the lowest in Westchester County.

**Health Considerations**

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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).

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 activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and EPA prescribe regulations that 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.

Although our water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, there are some people who 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 about their drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the 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).

### Source Water Assessment Program

The New York State Department of Health has evaluated the susceptibility of water supplies statewide to potential contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings relative to our water supply are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this public water system (PWS). This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

### New York City Watershed

This PWS obtains water from the NYC water supply system. Water comes from the Catskill / Delaware watersheds west of the Hudson River. The NYC DEP has implemented a series of programs to evaluate and protect 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 lands; and implementation of partnership programs that target specific sources of pollution in the watersheds. Due to these intensive efforts, the SWAP methodologies applied to the rest of the state were not applied for this PWS.

### Source Specific Assessment

The reservoirs of the Catskill / Delaware watersheds west of the Hudson are in a mountainous rural area and are relatively deep with little development along their shorelines.

The main water quality concern associated with land cover is agriculture, which can contribute microbial contaminants, pesticides, and algae producing nutrients. There are also some potential contamination concerns associated with residential lands and associated wastewater discharges.

However, advanced treatments which reduce contaminants are in place for most of these discharges. There are also a number of other discrete facilities, such as landfills, chemical bulk storages, etc. that have the potential to impact local water quality, but large significant water quality problems associated with these facilities are unlikely due to the size of the watershed and surveillance and management practices. Additional information on the water quality and protection efforts in these NYC watersheds can be found at DEP's website at [www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed\\_protection/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection/home.html).

### Information on *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and ground

water under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2008, as part of routine and enhanced sampling, NYC collected 104 - 50 liter samples from their source water at Kensico Reservoir and analyzed them for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. In these samples, 13 oocysts were detected. Therefore, testing indicates the presence of *Cryptosporidium* 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. The method also cannot distinguish among different species of *Cryptosporidium*, only a few of which can infect humans. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the 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.

*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 alone. During 2008, as part of routine and enhanced sampling, NYC collected 104 - 50 liter samples from their source water at Kensico Reservoir, and analyzed them for *Giardia* cysts. In these samples, 193 *Giardia* cysts were detected. Therefore, 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. The source water is disinfected before reaching our distribution system to remove / inactivate the *Giardia* cyst. 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 similar settings where hand washing practices are poor.

Additional information on *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* can be found on New York City DEP's website at [www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking\\_water/pathogen.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/pathogen.shtml).

### Water Quality Testing and Variances

Water quality is monitored daily by Board of Water Supply personnel. Bacteriological and chemical samples are collected as required and analyzed by a New York State approved Environmental Laboratory to insure that the water meets all the physical, chemical, and bacteriological standards of the New York State Sanitary Code. In 2008, we conducted more than 7500 tests for approximately 160 different water contaminants. We only detected 35; none of them exceeded the regulated levels.

Under the Surface Water Treatment Rule, surface supplies such as those of New York City must be filtered unless certain stringent water quality and monitoring criteria are met. In 1991, New York was

initially granted filtration avoidance through December 31, 2002, for the Catskill and Delaware supplies south of the Kensico Reservoir. This was based on the high quality of the source water and New York City's long term efforts to protect its watershed areas.

In 2002, the EPA extended New York City's filtration waiver to 2008. In return, watershed protection measures were significantly enhanced and expanded, and some of the protection programs were extended to certain Westchester and Putnam reservoirs. In 2008, the EPA issued a 10-year extension of NYC's filtration waiver. Under this agreement, NYC will continue to acquire undeveloped land and upgrade sewage treatment plants in watershed areas. Additionally, the City is proceeding with the construction of an Ultraviolet Treatment Plant to provide additional disinfection and water quality protection.

In 1991, Mount Vernon applied for and received filtration avoidance. This variance is still in effect, contingent on Mount Vernon and the City of New York continuing to meet avoidance criteria.

The Board of Water Supply was granted a biofilm variance from the New York State Department of Health on August 29, 1994. This variance recognizes that the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) can not be used to determine the public health significance of coliform bacteria detected in the distribution system when biofilms, and not contaminated water, are the source of the bacteria. (Biofilms are established colonies of bacteria that have been determined not to represent an unreasonable risk to the public health.) The continuation of this variance requires an ongoing "Biofilm Control Program". The Board of Water Supply's program consists of regular hydrant flushing, cleaning and cement lining of water mains, and maintaining adequate chlorine residuals throughout the distribution system. This variance also remains in effect.

### Water Quality Data

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2008 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. In fact, during 2008, our system complied with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

In January 2006, the EPA published Stage 2 of the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule (Stage 2 DBP Rule). This rule was intended to better protect the public health by reducing exposure to Disinfection Byproducts (Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids). In accordance with Stage 2 DBP Rule, the Board of Water Supply chose to conduct a System Specific Study, using a hydraulic model to meet the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) requirements. In 2008, during August (historically the month with the highest DBP concentration and water temperature), one round of IDSE monitoring was performed to validate the calibrated model. The results are in the chart on the following page.

The data in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. Unless otherwise indicated the data in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2008. Lead and copper values are from 2007. Since the Board of Water Supply has consistently maintained optimal water quality parameters, we received permission from the state to reduce the frequency for first draw lead and copper samples to once every three years. We will be conducting lead and copper testing again in 2010.

The state requires us to monitor for certain other contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Not one of these contaminants has been detected during analyses conducted over the last five years.

**Terms and Abbreviations Used Below**

- \***Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- \***Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- \***Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- \***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- \***Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- \***Variance and Exemption:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- \***µS/cm:** Microsiemens per centimeter (a measure of the ability to conduct current)      \***pCi/L:** Picocurie per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- \***NDL:** No determined limit.      \***n/d:** Not detected in routine laboratory analysis.      \***N/A:** Not applicable.
- \***ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.      \***ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.      \***LT:** Less than.

Contaminant	Date	Unit	MCL,TT or AL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
<b>Regulated Inorganic Chemicals</b>								
Lead	6-9/07	ppb	AL (a)	0	11.0	LT 2 - 43.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	No
Copper	6-9/07	ppb	AL (b)	1300	167	11.5 - 474	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	No
Aluminum	1/08	ppb	N/A	N/A	45.8	41.8 - 45.8	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Barium	1/08	ppb	2000	2000	14.8	12.2 - 14.8	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Calcium Hardness	1/08	ppm	NDL	N/A	16.0	14.0 - 16.0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Chlorides	1/08	ppm	250	N/A	9.40	8.44 - 9.40	Erosion of natural deposits or indicative of road salt contamination	No
Chromium	1/08	ppb	100	100	1.2	1.1 - 1.2	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Color Apparent	1/08	Color Units	15	N/A	1	LT 1 - 1	Iron and manganese or organic sources, such as decaying leaves and plants	No
Fluoride	1/08	ppm	2.2	N/A	0.844	0.824-0.844	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Total Hardness (c)	1/08	ppm	NDL	N/A	21	19 - 21	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Iron	1/08	ppb	300 (d)	N/A	93.3	44.1 - 93.3	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of water mains	No
Manganese	1/08	ppb	300 (d)	N/A	34.9	13.0 - 34.9	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Nickel	1/08	ppb	NDL	N/A	4.1	LT 1 - 4.1	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate	1,4/08	ppm	10	10	0.321	0.225-0.321	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	No
Sodium	1/08	ppm	NDL (e)	N/A	8.76	7.42 - 8.76	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Sulfate	1/08	ppm	250	N/A	5.32	5.25 - 5.32	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Dissolved Solids	1/08	ppm	250	N/A	47.8	42.0 - 47.8	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Organic Carbon	1/08	ppm as C	NDL	N/A	1.89	1.78 - 1.89	Organic matter naturally present in the environment	No
UV254 Absorbency	1/08	cm <sup>-1</sup>	NDL	N/A	0.039	0.036-0.039	Organic matter naturally present in the environment	No
Zinc	1/08	ppb	5000	N/A	2.5	LT 2.0 - 2.5	Naturally occurring	No
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform	2008	%	5%	0	1.43	0 - 1.43	Naturally present in the environment	No
Turbidity (E.P.)	2008	NTU	5NTU(f)	N/A	2.0	0.60 - 2.0	Soil runoff	No
Turbidity (Dist.)	2008	NTU	5NTU(g)	N/A	1.33	0.76 - 1.33	Soil runoff	No
Free Cl <sub>2</sub> Res.(EP)	2008	ppm	4.0	4	1.03	0.8 - 1.9	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Free Cl <sub>2</sub> Res.(Dist)	2008	ppm	4.0	4	0.90	0.50 - 1.3	Water additive used to control microbes	No
<b>Regulated Organic Contaminants</b>								
TTHM's	2008	ppb	80	N/A	29.5 (h)	19.7 - 37.6	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA_5	2008	ppb	60	N/A	33.8 (h)	26.0 - 42.1	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	No
Pentachlorophenol	10/08	ppb	1	0	0.064	LT0.04-0.064	Discharge from wood preserving factories	No
<b>Stage 2 DBP Rule - IDSE Monitoring</b>								
TTHM's	8/08	ppb	80	N/A	43.6	11.6 - 43.6	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	No
HAA_5	8/08	ppb	60	N/A	29.0	20.9 - 29.0	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	No
<b>Water Quality Parameters (Monitored for Corrosion Control)</b>								
Total Alkalinity	2008	ppm	NDL	N/A	--	LT 20-20.4	Erosion of natural deposits; impacted by water treatment chemicals	No
Calcium (i)	2008	ppm	NDL	N/A	--	4.97 - 6.74	Erosion of soil and rock formations	No
Orthophosphate	2008	ppm	NDL	N/A	--	0.72 - 2.57	Water additive for corrosion control	No
pH	2008	-		N/A	--	6.90 - 8.16	Impacted by acid rain and water treatment chemicals	No
Specific Conductance	2008	µS/cm	NDL	N/A	--	76.0 - 98.1	Presence of ions due to erosion of natural deposits	No
Temperature	2008	°C	NDL	N/A	--	4.0 - 22.0		No
<b>Regulated Radionuclide Contaminants (Measured in Source Waters) (j)</b>								
Gross Alpha Particle	2004	pCi/L	15	0	0.04 (h)	-0.5 - 0.4	Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions	No
Gross Beta Particle	2004	pCi/L	50 (k)	0	1.71 (h)	0.3 - 3.4	Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions	No
Combined Radium 226/228	2004	pCi/L	5	0	0.27 (h)	-1.19 - 1.4	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Uranium 238	2004	pCi/L	20.3 (l)	0	0.44 (h)	LT0.5 - 0.5	Erosion of natural deposits	No

- (a) Action Level (not an MCL) is 15 ppb. Measured at the tap. Between June 1 and September 30, 2007, 29 out of 31 samples were below the Action Level. The Detected Level is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 31 samples 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 greater than or equal to 90 percent of the lead values detected in the Distribution System.
- (b) Action Level (not an MCL) is 1300 ppb. Measured at the tap. All sample results between June 1 and September 30, 2007 were below the Action Level. The Detected Level is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 31 samples tested. It is greater than or equal to 90 percent of the copper values detected in the Distribution System.
- (c) Hardness is a measure of dissolved calcium and magnesium in the water. It is measured as mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Our drinking water is considered "soft". In general, surface waters such as NYC water are softer than groundwater (well water).
- (d) If iron **and** manganese are present, the total concentration of both should not exceed 500 ppb.
- (e) Water with greater than 20 mg/L sodium should not be consumed by those on a severely restricted sodium diet. People on a moderately restricted sodium diet should not consume water with greater than 270 mg/L.
- (f) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality but has no health effects. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants and act as a medium for microbial growth. MCL for Entry Points is the average of two consecutive days. Entry point data are individual sample measurements; Distribution System data is representative of the monthly distribution system average.
- (g) MCL for Distribution samples is the monthly average.
- (h) This is the Running Annual Average (RAA). It represents the average of 4 quarters of sampling results.
- (i) Calcium contributes to the total hardness of water.
- (j) Reported data is representative of 4 consecutive quarterly samples collected from our source waters, the Kensico Reservoir effluents (Catskill Aqueduct South and Delaware Aqueduct South). Compliance is based on the Running Annual Average of the samples.
- (k) The State considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- (l) The Uranium MCL (20.3 pCi/L) is equivalent to 30 µg/L. To convert uranium activity to mass, divide the measured activity in pCi/L by the mass to activity conversion factor (0.677 pCi/µg).

**About TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes):** The sum of the concentration of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. They are formed as a result of chlorine combining with the natural organics in water.

**About HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids):** The sum of the concentration of mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acids, and mono-, and dibromoacetic acids. They are also formed when chlorine reacts with the natural organics in water.

**About Lead:** Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water. If you wish to have your water tested, call (914) 668-7820 for details. More information is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants. The MRDL for Chlorine is 4.0 ppm.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of disinfectant use to control microbial contamination. For Chlorine the MRDLG is 4 ppm.

## Water Conservation

Water is a vital resource. We all recognize the need to conserve water during times of drought. It is just as important to use water wisely when the supply is plentiful. Careful use of water can result in less money spent on water, energy, and wastewater treatment. Some common sense measures to conserve water include:

- \*Shut faucets off tightly. A small drip can waste 25 gallons per day.
- \*Check all toilets for leakage by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait 10 to 15 minutes without flushing. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. A bad toilet leak can waste as much as 200 gallons a day.
- \*Don't run the faucet to get a cold drink. Place a container of water in the refrigerator.
- \*Don't run the faucet while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- \*Take shorter showers and half-full baths. Install low flow showerheads and faucets.
- \*Run washing machine and dishwasher only when full. Do not wash dishes under a running faucet.
- \*When cleaning, use a pail or basin instead of running water.
- \*Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter. Check it again after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.
- \*Do not cut the lawn too short; longer grass saves water.
- \*Water your lawn early in the morning or in the evening to reduce water loss by evaporation. Don't overwater.
- \*Mulch around trees and plants to help retain moisture.

(The bacteria *Escherichia coli* (associated with human and animal fecal waste) was not found in the distribution system. In addition, we monitored entry point samples for inorganic contaminants that were not detected. These include antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, cyanide, MBAS, mercury, nitrite, lead, thallium, selenium, and silver. Organic contaminants that were tested for and not detected in the source water include 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Aldicarb, Aldicarb sulfone, Aldicarb sulfoxide, Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Methomyl, Oxamyl, Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Lindane, Methoxychlor, PCB's, Propachlor, Toxaphene, 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin), Diquat, Endothal, Glyphosate, 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D, Dalapon, Dicamba, Dinoseb, Picloram, Silvex, 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-Dibromoethane, Butachlor, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, bis(2-Ethylhexyl) adipate, bis(2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Simazine, 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloropropene, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichloropropane, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 2,2-dichloropropane, 2-butanone (MEK), 2-chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane, Bromodichloromethane, Chloroform, Benzene, Bromobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Bromomethane, Carbon tetrachloride, Chlorobenzene, Chloroethane, Chloromethane, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, Dibromomethane, Dichlorodifluoromethane, Ethylbenzene, Hexachlorobutadiene, Isopropylbenzene, Methyl iso-butyl ketone (MIBK), Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), Methylene Chloride, n-butylbenzene, n-propylbenzene, Naphthalene, o-xylene, p-xylene, m-xylene, p-isopropyltoluene, SEC-butylbenzene, Styrene, TERT-butylbenzene, Tetrachloroethene, Toluene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, Trichloroethene, Trichlorofluoromethane, Vinyl chloride, Ethylene Glycol, and Propylene Glycol. Radiological contaminants tested for and not detected in the source water include Strontium-90, and tritium. Unregulated Contaminants that were tested for and not found in the source water are Perchlorate, DCPA di-acid, 2,4-Dinitrotoluene, 2,6-Dinitrotoluene, 4,4-DDE, Acetochlor, EPTC, Molinate, Terbacil, MTBE, and Nitrobenzene. The purpose of this monitoring was to provide assessment and occurrence data to support future decisions relating to the regulation of these contaminants.)

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.**

**La relazione contiene importante informazione sulla qualita dell' acqua della comunita. Tradurlo o parliamo con un amico che lo comprenda.**

**O relatório contem informações importantes sobre a qualidade da água da comunidade. Traduza-o ou peça ajuda de uma pessoa amiga para ajuda-lo a entender melhor.**

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
CITY HALL - ROOM 2  
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550  
www.cmvny.com

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WHITE PLAINS, NY  
PERMIT NO. 5045

SAVE WATER 