

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017**  
**Little Switzerland Water System**  
**Dogwood Rd Hopewell Junction, NY 12533**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 1302803)**

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Little Switzerland Water 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, we tested many contaminants. We detected some contaminants, and only found two of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at that time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard. There was an AL exceedance for Lead in June and for Copper in January. As required we conducted a corrosion control study and recommended corrosion control treatment. Plans for the treatment plant improvements for the corrosion control were approved by Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health on October 10, 2017. In the interim we have also assessed the plumbing systems of the homes where high lead levels were detected in an effort to identify plumbing fixtures suspected of contributing to the high lead detections. 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 VRI Environmental Services at (845) 677-3839. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

**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 and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves 400 people through 135 service connections. Our water source is groundwater drawn from two drilled wells which are located off of Dogwood Road. The water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite prior to distribution. Last year we produced 2,006,800 gallons of water at an average of 65,977 gallons per day.

The New York State Department of Health completed a source water assessment of the water supply in 2003. The source water assessment has rated our water source as having a potential susceptibility to microbial and nitrate contamination. These ratings are due primarily to the reported proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and the residential land use and related activities in the assessment area. The full results of this report are available from the Town of East Fishkill or the Dutchess County Department Community and Behavioral Health.

**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, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, synthetic organic compounds, and radiologicals. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your 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.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Department of Behavioral and Community Health at (845) 486-3404.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, AL or TT)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine Residual (Entry Point)	No	Yearly Average	1.04 (Range = 0.43 – 2.03)	mg/L	n/a	4.0	Chemical additive used to control microbes
Copper *	No	1/18/2017 1/19//2017	519 (Range = 16 – 1400)	ug/L	0	AL = 1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Copper *	No	6/22/2017 – 6/27/2017	180 (Range = 100 – 230)	ug/L	0	AL = 1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead **	No	1/18/2017 1/19/2017	6.7 (Range = ND – 9.1)	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead **	No	6/22/2017 – 6/27/2017	14 (Range = 3.1 – 40)	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	2/7/2017	180	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.

Nitrate	No	2/7/2017	1.8	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, AL or TT)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes	No	9/7/2017	17	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Haloacetic Acid	No	9/7/2017	4.8	ug/L	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Sodium	No	9/22/2015	21	mg/L	n/a	See Health Effects ***	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Nickel	No	2/7/2017	0.0052	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Corrosion of plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	No	12/16/2014	1.82	pCi/L	0	20	Erosion of natural deposits

**Footnotes:**

\* The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 11 or 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 11 or 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value is the reported value. The action level for copper was exceeded at one of the sites tested in January.

\*\* The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 11 or 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 11 or 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value is the reported value. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the sites tested in June.

\*\*\* Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

**Definitions:**

**Non - Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**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).

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentrations of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. The copper action level was exceeded in samples collected in January 2017. The lead action level was exceeded in samples collected in June 2017.

**Health Effects for Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action limit over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Health Effects for Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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. Little Switzerland Water 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 the 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>.

We are correcting the situation as follows: Plans for treatment plant improvements for corrosion control were approved by the Department of Health on October 10, 2017.

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

During 2017, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **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).

## **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our 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; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It 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 up 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.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions.