

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024

## Montrose Improvement District

2065 East Main Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Public Water Supply ID# NY5903436

### INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Montrose Improvement District (MID) 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 State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 10 of those contaminants, and found 0 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. 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 Matthew Geho, Operations Director-914-737-0558 Ext # 111. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled MID board meetings. The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm at 2065 East Main Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

### 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 source is the Catskill Aqueduct, which is located in the Town of Cortlandt. The Northern Westchester Joint Water Works (NWJWW) Raymond A. Reber Catskill Water Treatment Facility (**Data Tables 1-5-Below**) produces potable water from this source. During 2024, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Water is treated with the following processes prior to distribution: pH adjustment, coagulation, dissolved air flotation, filtration, chlorine disinfection, and corrosion control. A connection with the City of Peekskill water system is maintained as a supplementary water supply. Also, treated water from the Amawalk Water Treatment Plant (**Data Tables 6-8-Below**) on Route 35, in Somers, can be used as an emergency water supply via the NWJWW's 24" transmission main.

The NYS DOH has evaluated the susceptibility of water supplies statewide to potential contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings 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 potable water supply (PWS). This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

This PWS obtains water from the New York City water supply system. Water either comes from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds west of the Hudson River and/or from the Croton watershed in Putnam and Westchester counties. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) implements 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. Additional information on the water quality and protection efforts in these New York City watersheds can be found at DEP's web site [www.nyc.gov/dep/watershed](http://www.nyc.gov/dep/watershed). Specifically, this PWS obtains its water from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds west of the Hudson. The reservoirs in this mountainous rural area are relatively deep with little development along their shorelines. The main water quality concerns 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.

Our water system serves approximately 4200 people through ~850 service connections. Our water source is the Catskill Aqueduct, which is supplied by the Ashokan Reservoir owned and operated by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). We are fortunate to be part of NYCDEP's water supply, since it is a very high quality and is located in Catskill Mountains. The lands surrounding the Catskill Reservoirs are protected wild forests, which provides adequate buffer between our source water and manmade activities. Throughout the year MID's source water may vary depending on the operational needs of NYCDEP. There are occasions in which the Catskill Aqueduct is taken off line for routine maintenance and ongoing capital improvement projects. During these times, MID source water may be switched to the Campfield Reservoir, located in Peekskill NY. The reservoir is supplied by the Hollow Brook via a pump station located in the Town of Cortlandt Manor, NY. The Campfield Reservoir was not used in 2024 for source water. Additionally, water from the Amawalk Reservoir, located in Somers NY may be used to supply MID. Water from the Amawalk Reservoir is treated at the Amawalk Water Treatment Facility and pumped via a 24" transmission main to the Storage tank which supplies MID. This source was utilized five (5) days in 2024. Prior to distribution the water is coagulated with poly aluminum chloride, filtered through anthracite and sand, and disinfected with Sodium Hypochlorite at the Catskill Treatment Facility and Calcium Hypochlorite at the Amawalk Treatment Facility. Additionally, Ortho Phosphate is added for corrosion control and Sodium Hydroxide for pH adjustment.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The total water purchased in 2024, was 231.15 million gallons from Northern Westchester Joint Water Works. The amount of water delivered to customers in 2024 was approximately 224.57 million gallons. Metered customers include the Montrose Improvement District residents, the Village of Buchanan and the VA Hospital. The amount of water treated and delivered to

customers was approximately 598,760 gallons per day. Approximately, 6.58 million gallons of water was unaccounted for during the year, which is 3 % of the total amount purchased. Water that is unaccounted for was used to flush hydrants, to fight fires, and was lost from water main breaks and through leakage. In 2024, residential water customers were billed every four months. The amount billed was \$3.98 per 100 cubic feet of water usage up to 10,000 cubic feet and \$6.96 per 100 cubic feet of water use in excess of 10,000 cubic feet. The rate of penalty charge for late payment of water charges was 10% per four-month period. The annual average residential water charge was ~ \$504 per household. Bulk consumers, Village of Buchanan and the VA Hospital paid \$6.90 per 100 cubic feet.

## **WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT SECURITY**

Since September 11, 2001, security in and around the water treatment plants and water storage areas was increased including better fencing, locks and surveillance equipment, along with increased visual inspections and patrols of all facilities.

## **WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2024 the following improvements were made to the water distribution system:

Three fire hydrants in the district were replaced by new hydrants

13 Service line leaks were repaired/replaced

## **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, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. A complete list of contaminants sampled for and sampling frequency follows:

### ***NON-DETECTED SUBSTANCES AND THE FREQUENCY OF TESTING***

According to State regulations, the following lists of substances (along with test frequencies) were tested for in your drinking water and **not detected**. Samples for coliform bacteria were tested at least three times per month. Bromochloromethane, Bromoform, and dibromoacetic acid was tested quarterly from four sites. Arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, color, cyanide, manganese, mercury, nickel, nitrite, selenium, silver, sulfate, and thallium, were tested for annually. Bromomethane, carbon tetrachloride, chloroethane, chloromethane, dibromomethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, 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, methylene chloride, 1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, tetrachloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, trichloroethene, trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, vinyl chloride, benzene, bromobenzene, n-butylbenzene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, chlorobenzene, 2-chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, ethyl benzene, hexachlorobutadiene, isopropylbenzene, p-isopropyltoluene, naphthalene, n-propylbenzene, styrene, toluene, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-trichloromethylbenzene, p&m-xylene, o-xylene, methyl t-butyl ether, methyl isobutyl ketone, 1,2-dibromoethane, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, lindane, methoxychlor, toxaphene, proachlor, PCB's, 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, silvex, dalapon, dicamba, dinoseb, pentachlorophenol, pichloram, alachlor, atrazine, simazine, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorocyclopentadiene, benzo(a)pyrene, di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate, aldicarb sulfoxide, aldicarb sulfone, oxamyl, methomyl, 3-hydroxycarbofuran, aldicarb, carbofuran, carbaryl, glyphosate, and diquat were tested annually.

Table # 1-5 presented below identifies compounds that were detected in your drinking water at the Catskill Treatment Facility and Tables 6-8 present compounds detected in your drinking water at the Amawalk Treatment Facility. 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.

**Table #1 Inorganics and Turbidity-Catskill Source Water**

| Contaminant                       | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Average & Range)                                    | Unit Measurement          | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL) | Likely Source of Contaminant                                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Inorganic</i></b>           |                  |                |                                                                     |                           |      |                                   |                                                              |
| Alkalinity                        | no               | 1/1 – 12/31/24 | 16.78<br>12.1-25.6                                                  | mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub> | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally occurring                                          |
| Barium                            | no               | 5/31/2024      | 0.0059                                                              | mg/L                      | 2    | MCL 2                             | Erosion of natural deposits.                                 |
| Chloride                          | no               | 5/31/2024      | 9.9                                                                 | mg/L                      | N/A  | MCL 250                           | Naturally occurring or indication of road salt contamination |
| Chlorine, Free                    | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 1.40<br>1.18-1.71                                                   | mg/L                      | N/A  | MRDL 4                            | Water additive used to control microbes.                     |
| Hardness                          | no               | 1/1 –12/31/24  | 16.90<br>11.8-24.1                                                  | mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub> | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally occurring                                          |
| Magnesium                         | No               | 5/31/2024      | 0.705                                                               | Mg/l                      | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally Occuring                                           |
| Odor @ 60 Deg C                   | No               | 5/31/2024      | 1                                                                   | N/A                       | N/A  | 3                                 | Naturally occurring or byproducts of treatment               |
| pH                                | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 7.69<br>7.27-8.04                                                   | N/A                       | N/A  | N/A                               | N/A                                                          |
| Phosphorus, Ortho                 | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 0.79<br>0.70-0.91                                                   | mg/L                      | N/A  | N/A                               | Additive to prevent corrosion                                |
| Sodium <sup>1 &amp; 3</sup>       | no               | 5/31/2024      | 7.34                                                                | mg/L                      | N/A  | (20) <sup>3</sup>                 | Naturally occurring, road salt, water softening, animal      |
| Nitrate                           | no               | 5/31/2024      | 0.097                                                               | Mg/l                      | 0    | 10.0                              | Naturally occurring and soil run off                         |
| Filtration Turbidity <sup>2</sup> | No               | 2/26/2024      | Max Turb=0.25<br>%< 0.3=100%<br><br>Range 0.01-0.25<br>Average 0.07 | NTU                       | N/A  | TT=95% of samples < 0.3 NTU       | Soil Run Off                                                 |

**Table # 2 Radioactive Contaminants-Catskill Source Water**

| Contaminate                                                                  | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Average & Range) | Unit of Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT, AL) | Likely Source                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha Activity- (including radium 226 but excluding radon and uranium) | No               | 8/13/2021      | -0.322                           | pCi/L               | 0    | 15pCi/L                       | Erosion of natural deposits                     |
| Gross Beta & photon activity from manmade radionuclides <sup>4</sup>         | No               | 8/13/2021      | 1.35                             | pCi/L               | 0    | 50pCi/L                       | Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions |
| Combined Radium 226&228                                                      | No               | 8/13/2021      | 0.1961                           | pCi/L               | 0    | 5pCi/l                        | Erosion of natural deposits                     |
| Total Uranium                                                                | No               | 8/13/2021      | 0.016                            | µg/L                | 0    | 30µg/l                        | Erosion of natural deposits                     |

**Table #3 Synthetic Organic Contaminates (pesticides, Herbicides, PFOA/PFOS and 1,4 Dioxane)- Catskill Source Water**

| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Results ng/l | MCL ng/l | # of samples | Likely Source                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1,4 Dioxane | No               | 2/23/24        | ND           | 1000     | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |
| Total PFOA  | No               | 2/23/24        | ND           | 10       | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |
| Total PFOS  | No               | 2/23/2024      | ND           | 10       | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |

**Table #4 Organics (Total THM's & HAA's)<sup>5</sup>**

| Contaminant           | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample      | Level Detected RAA <sup>6</sup> (min-max) | Unit of Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT, AL) | Likely Source                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Trihalomethanes | No               | 02/8/2024-11/8/2024 | 14.48 (9.10-16.20)                        | µg/l                | N/A  | MCL 80 Annual average         | By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter |
| Haloacetic Acids      | No               | 2/8/2024-11/9/2024  | 16.85 (10.20-21.50)                       | µg/l                | N/A  | MCL 60 Annual average         | By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms                                                                               |

**Table # 5 Lead and Copper Results**

| Compound            | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sampling | Level Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> % & Range) | Units | # of samples above A.L. | Action Level (A.L.) | MCLG | # of Samples Collected | Likely source                                                |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------------|------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper <sup>7</sup> | No               | 6/15/2023        | 0.00562<br>0.0033-0.0083                    | mg/l  | 0                       | 1.3                 | 0    | 10                     | Corrosion of plumbing fixtures & piping; naturally occurring |
| Lead <sup>8</sup>   | No               | 6/15/2023        | 0.001<br>0.001-0.001                        | mg/l  | 0                       | 0.015               | 0    | 10                     | Corrosion of plumbing fixtures & piping; naturally occurring |

**Table #6 Inorganics and Turbidity-Amawalk Source Water**

| Contaminant                                           | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Average & Range)                                    | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL) | Likely Source of Contaminant                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Inorganic</i></b>                               |                  |                |                                                                     |                  |      |                                   |                                                              |
| Alkalinity                                            | no               | 1/1 – 12/31/24 | 78.10<br>42-93.60                                                   | mg/L as CaCO3    | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally occurring                                          |
| Barium                                                | no               | 5/31/2024      | 0.027                                                               | mg/L             | 2    | MCL 2                             | Erosion of natural deposits.                                 |
| Chloride                                              | no               | 5/31/2024      | 91.9                                                                | mg/L             | N/A  | MCL 250                           | Naturally occurring or indication of road salt contamination |
| Chlorine, Free                                        | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 1.68<br>1.28-2.19                                                   | mg/L             | N/A  | MRDL 4                            | Water additive used to control microbes.                     |
| Hardness                                              | no               | 1/1 –12/31/24  | 73.96<br>50-106.0                                                   | mg/L as CaCO3    | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally occurring                                          |
| Magnesium                                             | No               | 5/31/2024      | 8.4                                                                 | Mg/l             | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally Occuring                                           |
| Nickel                                                | No               | 5/31/2024      | 0.00059                                                             | Mg/l             | N/A  | N/A                               | Naturally Occuring                                           |
| Odor @ 60 Deg C                                       | No               | 5/31/2024      | 1                                                                   | N/A              | N/A  | 3                                 | Naturally occurring or byproducts of treatment               |
| pH                                                    | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 7.62<br>7.36-7.87                                                   | N/A              | N/A  | N/A                               | N/A                                                          |
| Phosphorus, Ortho                                     | no               | 1/1 - 12/31/24 | 0.79<br>0.24-1.34                                                   | mg/L             | N/A  | N/A                               | Additive to prevent corrosion                                |
| Sodium <sup>1 &amp; 3</sup>                           | no               | 5/31/2024      | 50.7                                                                | mg/L             | N/A  | (20) <sup>3</sup>                 | Naturally occurring, road salt, water softening, animal      |
| Sulfate                                               | No               | 5/31/2024      | 9.1                                                                 | Mg/l             | N/A  | 250                               | Naturally occurring                                          |
| Nitrate                                               | no               | 5/31/2024      | 0.34                                                                | Mg/l             | 0    | 10.0                              | Naturally occurring and soil run off                         |
| Filtration Turbidity <sup>2</sup><br>Amawalk Weir # 1 | No               | 5/15/2024      | Max Turb=0.19<br>%< 0.3=100%<br><br>Range 0.03-0.19<br>Average 0.06 | NTU              | N/A  | TT=95% of samples < 0.3 NTU       | Soil Run Off                                                 |
| Filtration Turbidity <sup>2</sup><br>Amawalk Weir # 2 | No               | 4/3/2024       | Max Turb=0.17<br>%< 0.3=100%<br><br>Range 0.03-0.17<br>Average 0.06 | NTU              | N/A  | TT=95% of samples<0.3 NTU         | Soil Run Off                                                 |

**Table # 7 Radioactive Contaminants-Amawalk Source Water**

| Contaminate                                                                 | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Average & Range | Unit of Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT, AL) | Likely Source                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha Activity- (including radium 226but excluding radon and uranium) | No               | 8/12/2021      | -01.27                          | pCi/L               | 0    | 15pCi/L                       | Erosion of natural deposits                     |
| Gross Beta & photon activity from manmade radionuclides <sup>4</sup>        | No               | 8/12/2021      | 1.01                            | pCi/L               | 0    | 50pCi/L                       | Decay of natural deposits and manmade emissions |
| Combined Radium 226&228                                                     | No               | 8/12/2021      | 0.559                           | pCi/L               | 0    | 5pCi/l                        | Erosion of natural deposits                     |
| Total Uranium                                                               | No               | 8/12/2021      | 0.035                           | µg/L                | 0    | 30µg/l                        | Erosion of natural deposits                     |

**Table #8 Synthetic Organic Contaminates (pesticides, Herbicides, PFOA/PFOS and 1,4 Dioxane)- Amawalk Source Water**

| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Results ng/l | MCL ng/l | # of samples | Likely Source                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1,4 Dioxane | No               | 2/23/24        | ND           | 1000     | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |
| Total PFOA  | No               | 2/23/24        | 4.6          | 10       | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |
| Total PFOS  | No               | 2/23/2024      | 2.9          | 10       | 1            | Released into the environment from commercial and industrial sources and is associated with inactive and hazardous waste sites |

**Table 1-8 Foot notes**

1. People on severely restricted sodium diets should not consume water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.
2. 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. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 2/26/2024 (0.25NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. 100% of the turbidity samples collect in 2024 were < 0.3NTU and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.
3. These measurements were taken at the water treatment plant.
4. The State considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
5. THMs are formed when waters containing organic compounds are disinfected with chlorine. The objective of the treatment plant is to remove as much organic carbon prior to disinfection so there is no exceedance of the DBP's rule as the water travels through distribution to consumer's taps.
6. This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from data collected.

7. This concentration represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested for copper in 2023. This value was 0.00562 mg/L. The action level for copper is 1.3 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. We are required to test for both lead and copper at 10 homes every three years. Next sampling event will occur in 2026
8. This concentration represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested for lead in 2023. This value was 0.001 mg/L. The action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. Next sampling event will occur in 2026.
  - a. Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Montrose Improvement District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Montrose Improvement District Acting Superintendent-Patrick Murphy @ patmurphy@nwjww.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Definitions for Table 1-8:**

**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.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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 to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picograms per liter (pg/l)**: Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)**: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)**: A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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 Westchester County Department of Health Department at 914-813-5000.

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

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations for MCL's, Treatment Techniques, or Action Limits. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Montrose Improvement District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Montrose Improvement District Acting Superintendent-Patrick Murphy @ [patmurphy@nwjww.com](mailto:patmurphy@nwjww.com). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

During 2024, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements

## **INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a

system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory which has been submitted to the NYSDOH for review. Preliminary findings are: of the 854 accounts, we have confirmed that 229 service connections do not contain lead or galvanized steel. Service lines are either copper or ductile iron which was confirmed by either replacing the service line, new construction or physical observations. Once finalized the complete inventory list will be made available for public review. A notice will be provided on an upcoming water bill.

## **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 firefighting 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.

## **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 questions.