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ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2013

TOWN OF KENT DISTRICT NO. 1

HORSEPOUND ROAD

KENT, NEW YORK

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 3905708

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2013
Town of Kent District No. 1
Horsepound Road, Kent, New York
(Public Water Supply ID# 3905708)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Town of Kent District No. 1 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 or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the Town Supervisor at (845) 225-3900. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please contact the Town Hall or the Putnam County Department of Health for general information.

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 system serves approximately 416 residents. Our water source is three drilled rock wells, 1 at Pump House #1 and 2 at Pump House #2. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

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, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. 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 Putnam County Health Department at 845-278-6130.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha	N	4/14/08	9.6	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radiation 226	N	4/14/08	1.1	pCi/L	0	5	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Radiation 228	N	4/14/08	1.1	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	4/14/08	9.8	pCi/L	0	15	Natural Environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper[1]	N	6/20/12	0.16	ug/L	1,300	AL = 1,300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead[1]	N	6/20/12	< 0.005	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	N	5/13/13	2.50	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	11/20/12	15.97	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally Occurring
Chloride	N	11/16/12	62	ug/L	5,000	5,000	Naturally occurring; Mining waste.
Organic Contaminants							
Dibromochloromethane	N	5/13/13	1.6	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Bromodichloromethane	N	5/13/13	0.86	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Bromoform	N	5/13/13	0.79	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	N	5/13/13	3.25	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

Health Effects

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 of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

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 Town of Kent District No. 1 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.

DEFINITIONS

- ***Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)***: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.
- ***Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)***: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ***Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)***: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- ***Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)***: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- ***Action Level (AL)***: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ***Treatment Technique (TT)***: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ***Non-Detects (ND)***: Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- ***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.

Mathematical Conversions

1 mg/L	=	1 ppm
1 ug/L	=	1 ppb
1 ppm x 1,000	=	1 ppb
1 ppb / 1,000	=	1 ppm

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2012, 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 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.

MAINTAINING YOUR PLUMBING

Here is a list of simple maintenance tips to help prevent costly repairs:

General Tips:

1. **Fix leaky faucets promptly.** In addition to wasting about 20 gallons of water a day, a leak can ruin your faucet set.
2. **Do not use caustic liquid drain openers on a drain that is completely clogged.** It can severely damage your pipes.
3. **Periodically drain several gallons of water from your water heater.** This removes sediment from the bottom of the tank to increase heating efficiency and prolong tank life.
4. **Wrap outdoor or crawl space pipes with electric heat tape or insulation to prevent freezing.**
5. **If you suspect scale build up on your furnace heating coil** or your suspect you hot water is operating inefficiently, please contact your local authorized HVAC dealer or plumbing contractor.

In Your Kitchen & Bath

1. **Do not rinse fats or cooking oil down the drain.** Liquid fats solidify in the cold drain pipes and create clogs.
2. **To extend the life of your garbage disposal:** Use plenty of cold water when running; don't over load; never dispose of bones, corn husks, or stringy fibrous material; never use a caustic drain opener; and always use tongs or pliers to free objects from the disposal – don't use your hands.
3. **Check under sinks for moisture or small leaks.** Leaks under sinks should be repaired quickly to avoid damage to cabinets and floors.
4. **Use a strainer in bathroom drains.** This will prevent hair and soap pieces from clogging drains.
5. **Make sure overflow holes on tubs and vanity are clear and open to prevent water damage to floors and ceilings.**

Freezing Weather

Preventative maintenance would include protecting pipes from wind and closing foundation vents. During deep freezes, leave water rapidly dripping at each end of the house – hot and cold. (To keep from

wasting the water you can collect it in a bathtub to use for watering houseplants, etc.) Additionally, it is important to always disconnect all outside hoses from the outside water faucets during winter months.

Insulation is helpful; however, protecting the pipes from direct exposure to weather is most effective. Insulation alone will not completely protect pipes from freezing.

Shutting Your Water Off in an Emergency

Your home should have a "master shutoff valve" inside and a curb valve outside. In case of emergency do you know where your valves are and how to shut your water off? You may contact your Town if you would like to schedule an appointment for assistance in locating your outside shutoff.

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 the Town Supervisor if you have questions.