



# **PREPARING YOUR DRINKING WATER ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

## **GUIDANCE FOR WATER SUPPLIERS**

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**NOTICE**

This document was written to provide implementation guidance to water suppliers on the New York State Department of Health’s implementation Subdivision 5-1.72(e)-(h) of the State Sanitary Code. The guidance is designed to implement State policy on these issues. The document does not, however, substitute for Section 5-1.72 of the State Sanitary Code; nor is it a regulation itself. Thus, it cannot impose legally binding requirements on the New York State Department of Health or water suppliers and may not apply to a particular situation based on the circumstances. The New York State Department of Health retains the discretion to adopt approaches on a case-by-case basis that differ from this guidance where appropriate. The New York State Department of Health may change this guidance in the future.



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is for water suppliers who are preparing their Annual Water Quality Report as prescribed by Section 5-1.72 of the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR). This guide explains all of the requirements for report content, format, and distribution.

The rationale for Annual Water Quality Reports is that consumers have the right to know what is in their drinking water. The information contained in an Annual Water Quality Report can raise consumers' awareness regarding the source of their drinking water, help consumers to understand the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to their homes, and educate consumers about the importance of preventative measures, such as source

protection, that ensure a safe drinking water supply. Annual Water Quality Reports can also promote a dialogue between consumers and their drinking water utilities and can encourage consumers to become more involved in decisions which may affect their health. The information in the reports can be used by consumers, especially those with special health needs, to make informed decisions regarding their drinking water. These reports will encourage consumers to consider the challenges of providing safe drinking water. Educated consumers are more likely to help protect their drinking water sources and to appreciate the true costs of safe drinking water.

## 2.0 WHAT IS AN ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT?

Since 1996, Section 1150 of New York State's Public Health Law has required community water systems, serving 1,000 or more service connections, to prepare and provide Annual Water Quality Reports to their customers. Many systems on Long Island have been required to prepare these reports since 1988.

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act and added a provision requiring every community water system that serves 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents (water system is not shut-down during the year) to deliver to their customers an Annual Water Quality Report. Although the intent of both the State regulation and the federal rule were similar, there were differences between the two types of Annual Water Quality Reports. In summary, the differences included: who is required to produce the reports (systems serving 1,000 or more service connections vs. systems serving 15 or more service connections); report distribution methods (mailed or placed in newspaper vs. required mailings), and report content.

In 2001, the New York State Department of Health

(DOH) amended 10 NYCRR Section 5-1.72 of the State Sanitary Code to adopt the Annual Water Quality Report requirements prescribed by the federal government. 10 NYCRR Section 5-1.72 was amended to clarify (and add to) the Annual Water Quality Report requirements for systems serving 1,000 or more service connections and establish Annual Water Quality Report requirements for systems serving fewer than 1,000 service connections.

These regulatory revisions result in an Annual Water Quality Report prepared by systems serving fewer than 1,000 service connections which includes information on the water source and water treatment, the levels of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules, plus general educational information. The regulatory revisions require systems serving 1,000 or more service connections to prepare a report that includes the aforementioned items as well as information on non-detected contaminants, water use, water source restrictions, water conservation measures, and the cost of water.

## 3.0 WHO MUST PREPARE AN ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT?

Every community water system that serves 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents must prepare and distribute an Annual Water Quality Report. These systems typically

include cities, towns, homeowners' associations, apartments, and mobile home parks.

A water wholesaler that sells water to another water system must provide the retailer with monitoring

data and other information that will enable the retailer to produce an Annual Water Quality Report, unless the two systems make a different contractual arrangement. Wholesalers are not responsible for creating the report for the retailer, nor are they responsible for providing data on contaminants that the retailer monitors (such as lead or total trihalo-methanes). Regardless of who produces the report, the retail system is responsible for ensuring that its customers receive a report meeting all of the requirements.

In some cases, a retailer will contract with the wholesaler to produce the report. There are several options in this relationship. If the retailer had no new data to add, it could simply send out the wholesaler's Annual Water Quality Report with a cover letter explaining their relationship. If the retailer does need to add data, it might choose to reprint the wholesaler's Annual Water Quality Report with a new title/letterhead and the extra data. Either of these options is acceptable.

#### **4.0 WHAT IS REQUIRED IN AN ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT?**

This guidance describes New York State's requirements for an Annual Water Quality Report and suggests other sections or explanations that will help your customers understand the report. A summary of the basic Annual Water Quality Report requirements is presented below.

##### **Annual Water Quality Report Requirements**

*(please read on for details and recommended enhancements)*

**Systems serving 15 to 999 service connections serving at least 25 year-round residents**

##### ***Water System Information***

- Name, address, and public water system identification number.
- Name and telephone number of system's contact person.
- Telephone number of the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the system.
- Information about opportunities for public participation (e.g., time and place of regularly scheduled meetings).
- A statement explaining the number of people served by the system.
- Information for non-English speaking populations, if applicable.

##### ***Sources of Water and Water Treatment***

- Type, name and location of water sources.
- Availability of a Source Water Assessment.
- Brief summary of the system's susceptibility to potential sources of contaminants using language provided by the DOH.
- A description of the type(s) of treatment that the water receives before entering the distribution system.

##### ***Definitions***

- Each report must contain the definitions for Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL), and Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG).
- Definitions for Variances and Exemptions must be included if system is operating under a variance or exemption.
- Definitions for Level 1 and 2 assessments must be included if the system has triggered an assessment under the revised total coliform rule.
- A report that includes information on a contaminant that is regulated as a Treatment Technique (TT) or an Action Level (AL) must include the definitions for these terms.

(Continued)

**Annual Water Quality Report Requirements**  
(*please read on for details and recommended enhancements*)

***Detected Contaminants***

- A table summarizing data on detected contaminants presented in Table 1. The table must include the following:
  - State MCL, TT or AL expressed in a number equal to or greater than 1.0.
  - the MCLG for those contaminants expressed in the same units as the MCL.
  - the level detected for each contaminant.
  - the known or likely source of each contaminant .
  - a notation indicating if there was a MCL, TT or AL violation; and
  - the date the sample was collected.
- For MCL, TT and AL violations, the report must include Health Effects language (see Table 1) and an explanation of the violation.

***Non-Detected Contaminants***

- Information on non-detected contaminants.

***Information on Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Radon and Unregulated Contaminants***

- If a system has performed monitoring which indicates that *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* were detected in the source or finished water the report must include a summary of the data.
- If a system has performed monitoring which indicates that radon was detected in finished water the report must include a summary of the data.
- If a system has performed monitoring which indicates that unregulated contaminants were detected in the source or finished water, the report must include a contact person and telephone number for information on the monitoring results.

***Compliance with the State Sanitary Code***

- Explanation of violations, potential health effects and steps taken to correct the violations.
- Explanation of variance/exemption, if applicable.

***Educational Information***

- Explanation of contaminants and their presence in drinking water.
- A statement explaining that the presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily pose a health risk.
- A statement explaining that some individuals may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganism and pathogens than the general population.
- Informational statements on arsenic, nitrate, lead, and fluoride, if necessary.

**Systems serving 1,000 or more service connections**

- Report must include each of the details specified above as well as the items listed below.
  - Systems that calculate water use of all customers with meters must include an accounting of the total annual amount of water withdrawn, delivered, and lost from the system.
  - A description of any water source(s) restricted, removed from service, or otherwise limited in its use and any new actions taken to secure new suppliers or replace lost capacity.
  - Water conservation measures available to customers.
  - A description of any major facility modifications and a discussion of capital improvements needed or planned.
  - For systems that bill their customers, the report shall include the average charge for water.
  - The analytical results for samples collected directly from drinking water sources that are not used to determine compliance may be placed in a supplement to the Annual Water Quality Report.

The DOH encourages you to tailor the content of your Annual Water Quality Report to local conditions. If you think that an added picture or

graph would help your customers to understand your report, feel free to include additional information. If your customers would benefit from an explanation of

your need for new treatment facilities, include that information in your report. The State regulation allows you to include additional educational information in your report, as long as it does not detract from the purpose of your report.

Customers are most interested in a clear statement of whether or not their drinking water meets all state standards. Although it is not required by the State regulation, you will help your customers if you tell them whether their water has met all drinking water standards. Be cautious in using the word “safe” since water that meets standards and is safe for most people may not be safe in all cases for immunocompromised individuals (e.g., people with HIV/AIDs or chemotherapy patients).

**Example for a system with no violations:**

*Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. The Flanigan Water District is proud to report that our system has*

*never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report is 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. We are pleased to provide you with this information because informed customers are our best customers.*

**Example for a system with violations:**

*Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 5 of those contaminants and found only 1 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we modified our treatment processes to rectify the problem. This report is 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. We are pleased to provide you with this information because informed customers are our best customers.*

## 5.0 REPORT CONTENTS REQUIRED FOR ALL APPLICABLE CWSS

### ITEM 1: WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

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Your report must identify your water system’s name, address and public water system identification number (PWS ID#). Your PWS ID# is a unique seven-digit number assigned to your water system by the DOH. If you are unsure of your PWS ID# contact your local health department representative.

An Annual Water Quality Report must also include:

- The name and telephone number of a person at the water system who can answer questions about the report.
- The telephone number of the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system. A complete telephone listing is included in Appendix A.
- A list of known opportunities for public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality (e.g., time and place of regularly scheduled water board or city/county council meetings). If you do not have regularly scheduled meetings, inform customers how to obtain information regarding when the meetings are announced. If you are a small system (i.e., mobile home park, apartment complex, or subdivision) and you do not have meetings, we encourage you to tell customers that you would discuss any drinking water issues with them in

person.

- A statement explaining the number of people served by the drinking water system.

Systems that have a large proportion of non-English speaking residents must include information in the appropriate language expressing the importance of the report. The DOH has determined that the decision to include information for non-English speaking residents should be made at the water-supplier level in consultation with the local health department, since you are the most familiar with your customers.

The required language for systems determined to have a large proportion of non-English speaking residents is as follows:

***This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it.***

**Spanish**

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

**Korean**

아래의 보고는 귀하께서 드시는 식수에 대한 중요한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다. 번역을 하시든지 아니면 이 보고를 읽고 이해하시는 분나 말씀하시기를 바랍니다.

**French**

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

**Chinese**

這份報告含有非常重要有關係的水  
的資料 請找懂得這份報告的人翻譯  
或解釋給您聽

**ITEM 2: SOURCE(S) OF WATER AND WATER TREATMENT**

Describe the source of your water (groundwater, surface water, or a blend), and the commonly used name(s) (if such a name exists) and general locations of your water source(s). We encourage you to provide a simple map of your system's sources.

Explaining your various interconnections and back-up sources may be difficult, but it is important that consumers understand that the source of their water may vary during the year. Remember to include in your table of detected contaminants monitoring data for these "extra" sources if you use water from them. If your situation is complex, feel free to contact your local health department representative or the state drinking water program representative to determine what information belongs in your report.

Your report must include a brief summary of your source water's susceptibility to contamination based on the findings of the source water assessment, if such assessment is available. The summary must be included annually despite no updates or changes from the previous year's report. Your county or district health department office will provide this summary to you. Inform your customers that they can obtain a copy of the source water assessment by contacting their water system, county or district health department office, or State DOH.

This section should also include a description of the type(s) of treatment your water receives prior to distribution.

**Source Description and Treatment Examples****Filtration**

*The drinking water source for the Village of Colvin is surface water drawn from Grady Brook located on Mount Stegmann. Water from Grady Brook flows into the reservoir located on Gregory Drive and Marcy Road. Water from the reservoir flows by gravity through a transmission line to a 500,000-gallon uncovered raw water storage reservoir. The water is pumped from the reservoir to the water treatment plant. After filtration, disinfection, pH adjustment and corrosion control treatment, the treated water enters the distribution system which includes a 500,000-gallon finished water covered reservoir.*

**Green Sand Filtration**

*The water system consists of a well located at the end of Graff Lane. The water is pumped from the well to the treatment plant where chlorine and potassium permanganate are added to enhance the iron removal processes as it passes through green sand filters. The water is disinfected again as it leaves the plant.*

**Fluoridation**

*The Flanigan water system is one of the many systems in New York State that adds a low level of fluoride to drinking water in order to provide consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride*



is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. Our fluoride addition facility is designed and operated to provide drinking water with this beneficial fluoride.

### **Disinfection**

The water system consists of four drilled wells located on Crawford Road. The water is pumped from the wells into a 130,000-gallon storage tank. The water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite as it is transferred to the storage tank.

### **Disinfection Waiver**

The water system consists of a drilled well with a submerged pump and a 20,000-gallon storage tank. A spring supply (old source) is available as an auxiliary source but was not used during this reporting period. The sources are located on of the Zeus Acres Mobile Home Park property. The drinking water source is operating under a disinfection waiver issued by the Health Department. Therefore, no treatment is required.

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## **ITEM 3: DEFINITIONS**

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Every Annual Water Quality Report must include definitions of key terms that consumers will need to understand the contaminant data. You must use the definitions listed below:

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

Include the following definitions **only** if your report contains information on a detected contaminant that is regulated by an action level (e.g., lead, copper) or a treatment technique (turbidity):

- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Include the following definitions **only** if your report contains information on a triggered assessment required under the revised total coliform rule:

- **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.

Include the following definition **only** if your water system operated under a variance or exemption during the calendar year that the report describes:

- **Variances and Exemptions:** State permission not to meet an MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

In addition to the terms and definitions required by the Annual Water Quality Report regulation, your report may contain a number of terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar to your customers. Therefore, you may wish to include the following definitions in your report if the terms are referenced:

- **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):** Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Millirems per year (mrem/yr):** 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.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value:** The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

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#### ITEM 4: DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

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An essential part of the report is the table that shows the highest level of each detected contaminant (this is usually the value you report to the State to determine compliance) and the range of levels of that contaminant you found during the year, if compliance is based on an average of several samples. It is also suggested that you include the number of samples collected or analyses performed for each detected contaminant.

A detected contaminant is any contaminant detected by a New York State approved laboratory. Your report must include detected monitoring results for any samples used to determine compliance, any detected contaminant results collected and analyzed by the State, and/or detected monitoring results of additional samples required by the State or EPA (i.e., surveillance monitoring, Information Collection Rule monitoring, etc.).

The Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule requires systems to include, for Total Tri-Halomethanes and five Halo Acetic Acids, the highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) and the range of quarterly results (for all locations) in their main detected contaminant table. In addition, systems with an LRAA MCL exceedance at more than one location, must report the LRAA for each location that exceeded the MCL.

Water quality parameters (i.e. pH) or data collected during research projects are not required to be included in the Annual Water Quality Report. However, since this information is usually public information, you may want to include it in your report. For example, the United States Geological Survey uses analytical methods other than those approved by the EPA for drinking water analysis.

These methods are usually much more sensitive than the drinking water methods and may include additional parameters.

The table of detected contaminants must not include data that are not detected (i.e., represented on a lab report with a less than sign “<”, or denoted by the letters “LT” or “ND”). If you sometimes distribute water from auxiliary or back-up sources, you generally need to include monitoring results from these sources in the ranges of detections that you report in the table, unless the source’s contribution is insignificant (e.g., one day per year).

Any of the contaminants detected in your water (except *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, and radon that are discussed on pages 14-15) must be included in the Annual Water Quality Report table of detected contaminants. You may want to organize your table by contaminant type (e.g., microbial, inorganic) or sampling site (e.g., treatment plant, distribution system). If you want to list all of the contaminants for which you monitored but did not detect, you must do so outside of the table of detected contaminants.

Table 1 provides a list of contaminants that may be detected at your water system. This table lists each of the contaminants for which you are required to test under Part 5, as well as additional contaminants that may be detected in your drinking water. It should be noted that you might not have tested for many of the contaminants listed on this table. Conversely, you may detect contaminants in your drinking water system that are not listed on this table. If you detect a contaminant that is not listed in Table 1, please contact your local health department representative or the State Health Department at

(518) 402-7650 to obtain contaminant specific information.

To ensure that consumers can easily compare detected contaminant levels to their MCLs, your table(s) must display the MCL for each contaminant in units that express it as a number equal to or greater than 1.0. Table 1 includes the MCL, AL or TT, expressed in a number equal to or greater than 1.0 for each listed contaminant. Therefore, when creating your table of detected contaminants, you could reference Table 1 and transfer the MCL, AL, or TT and the respective units specified in Table 1 to your table for each contaminant detected at your system. The MCLG and level of the detected contaminant must be reported in the same units as the MCL. For example, antimony results are usually reported by laboratories in mg/l; however, it is easier for customers to see that your water contains antimony at a level 10 times lower than the MCL if you report the MCL as 6 ug/l and the detected level as 1.0 ug/l than if you were to report the MCL as 0.006 mg/l and the detected level as 0.001 mg/l. In this case, Table 1 has converted the MCL of 0.006 mg/l to 6 ug/l, but you will still need to convert the detected level of 0.001 mg/l to 1 ug/l. This conversion is done by multiplying the detected level by 1,000. A chart displaying conversion factors is provided below.

<b>Multiply</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>To Obtain</b>
mg/l (ppm)	Multiply detected level by 1,000	ug/l (ppb)
mg/l (ppm)	Multiply detected level by 1,000,000	ng/l (ppt)
mg/l (ppm)	Multiply detected level by 1,000,000,000	pg/l (ppq)
ug/l (ppb)	Multiply detected level by 1,000	ng/l (ppt)
ug/l (ppb)	Multiply detected level by 1,000,000	pg/l (ppq)
ng/l (ppt)	Multiply detected level by 1,000	pg/l (ppq)
<b>For Radioactive Contaminants</b>		
Bequerel/m <sup>3</sup> (Bq/m <sup>3</sup> )	Multiply detected level by 0.027	picocuries/l (pCi/l)
Note: <i>When you round results to determine compliance, round before multiplying the results by the factor listed in this table.</i>		

The Annual Water Quality Report includes data from monitoring completed during the past calendar year; however, if you have monitoring waivers, or for

another reason monitor less than once per year, you must include the most recent data. For example, if you are preparing a report for the 2020 calendar year, but did not monitor for inorganics in 2020 (due to a monitoring waiver), you must report information for detected contaminants from the most recent inorganic sampling round (collected prior to 2020) for inorganics. You would include the same information in subsequent years until a new sample is collected.

If the report contains data on detected contaminants that is not from the calendar year indicated, the report must include the **sample date** (month and year) of each detected contaminant and a **brief statement** explaining that the data presented is from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations. An example of this statement is as follows:

*“The State allows us to monitor 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.”*

You do not need to report monitoring results that are more than five years old.

For each detected contaminant, the table must contain the elements described below.

1. The **sample date** (month and year) of each detected contaminant.
2. The **MCL** expressed as a **number greater than 1.0** (see Table 1). If the contaminant is regulated by a TT, put the letters “TT” in place of the MCL. If the contaminant is regulated by an AL, specify the applicable Action Level.
3. The **MCLG** expressed in the same units as the MCL (see Table 1).
4. The **level of each detected contaminant** expressed in the same units as the MCL and MCLG:
  - when compliance with the MCL is determined annually or less frequently: report the highest detected level at any sampling point and the range of detected levels, if applicable, expressed in the same units as the MCL;
  - when compliance with the MCL is determined more frequently than annually: report the highest average of any of the sampling points used to determine compliance and the range of detected

levels (see Appendix B);

- when compliance with the MCL is determined by calculating a running annual average of all samples taken from a single sampling point: report the highest average of any of the sampling points used to determine compliance and the range of detected levels (see Appendix B); and
- when compliance with the MCL is determined on a system-wide basis by calculating a running annual average of all samples at all sampling points: report the average used to determine compliance and the range of detected levels.
- if you have detected contaminants for which the state or federal rules require monitoring (i.e., Information Collection Rule compounds listed in Table 17 of Part 5), except monitoring (i.e., Information Collection Rule) and/or *Cryptosporidium*, include the range of detections. See Table 1 for a list of these contaminants.

**Note: When calculating the average for any of the above-described reporting scenarios, non-detected contaminants should be included in the calculation using a value of one-half of the reported detection limit.**

5. Systems using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water are required to include information from **turbidity monitoring** in the Annual Water Quality report. Specific reporting requirements are as follows:

- Systems that are **required to install filtration, but have not**, must report the highest monthly average for turbidity (see Appendix B). Additionally, systems falling into this category must also include the following statement:

*“Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.”*

- Systems that have met the State’s criteria for **avoiding filtration** must report the highest single turbidity measurement found in any one month (see Appendix B). The report should also include an explanation of the reasons for measuring turbidity. An example of this statement is as follows:

*“Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.”*

- Systems that filter their water and use turbidity as an **indicator of filtration performance** must report the highest single combined filtered water measurement identified during the reporting year and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity performance standards for the filtration technology being used (see Appendix B). These turbidity performance standards are as follows:

Filtration Type	Performance Standard <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Performance Standard <sup>2</sup>
Conventional	0.3 NTU	1 NTU
Direct	0.3 NTU	1 NTU
Alternative Technologies	1.0 NTU	5 NTU
Slow Sand	1.0 NTU	5 NTU
Diatomaceous Earth	1.0 NTU	5 NTU

1 – A treatment technique violation occurs if more than 5% of the composite filter effluent measurements taken each month exceed the performance standard values.  
2 - A treatment technique violation occurs if the turbidity level of representative samples of the filtered water exceeds 1 or 5.0 NTU depending type of filtration.

The report should also include an explanation of the reasons for measuring turbidity. An example of this statement is as follows:

*“Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.”*

Systems that have surface water sources or groundwater sources directly influenced by surface water are required to report distribution turbidity results in the Table of Detected Contaminants.

6. For **lead and/or copper**, report the 90<sup>th</sup>

percentile value from the most recent sampling (if it was detected above the detection limit), the range of detections, and the number of sampling sites that exceeded the action level (see Appendix B).

7. Systems that collect **fewer than 40 total coliform samples per month** must report the highest number of positive samples collected in any one month (see Appendix B).

Systems that collect **40 or more total coliform samples per month** must report the highest percentage of positive samples collected in any one month (see Appendix B).

Any system required to comply with the Level 1 assessment requirement or a Level 2 assessment requirement that is not due to an *E. coli* MCL violation must include the following text in their report:

*“We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.”*

The report should also include the following if applicable to the system:

*“During the past year we were required to conduct [INSERT NUMBER OF LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENTS] Level 1 assessment(s). [INSERT NUMBER OF LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENTS] Level 1 assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] and we completed [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] of these actions.”*

*“During the past year [INSERT NUMBER OF LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENTS] Level 2 assessments were required to be completed for our water system. [INSERT NUMBER OF LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENTS] Level 2 assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] corrective actions and we completed [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] of these actions.”*

Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement and must also include one or both of the following statements:

*“During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessments.” AND/OR “During the past year we failed to correct all identified defects that were found during the assessment.”*

8. For *E. Coli* report the total number of positive samples detected.

Any system required to conduct a Level 2 assessment due to an *E. coli* MCL violation must include the following text in their report:

*“We found E. coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.”*

*“We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we found E. coli in our water system. In addition, we were required to take [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] corrective actions and we completed [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] of these actions.”*

Any system that has failed to complete the required assessment or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement and must also include one or both of the following statements:

*“During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessments.” AND/OR “During the past year we failed to correct all sanitary defects that were identified during the assessment that we conducted.”*

If a system detects *E. coli* and has violated the *E. coli* MCL, in addition to completing the table, the system must include one or more of the following statements to describe any noncompliance, as applicable:

*“We had an E. coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample.” AND/OR “We had a total coliform-positive repeat sample following an E. coli-positive routine sample.” AND/OR “We failed to take all required repeat samples following an E. coli-positive sample.” AND/OR “We failed to*

*test for E. coli when any repeat sample tests positive for total coliform.”*

If a system detects *E. coli* and has not violated the *E. coli* MCL, in addition to completing the table, the system may include a statement that explains that although they have detected *E. coli*, they are not in violation of the *E. coli* MCL.

9. Laboratory results for **radioactive contaminants** usually present the detected level as well as a range (+/-). For example, a laboratory may report a detected level for gross alpha as 8 pCi/l +/- 5. For Annual Water Quality Report reporting purposes you should report the actual level detected 8 pCi/l, not the potential range (+/- 5).
10. When reporting **beta particles** detected in your water at or below 50 pCi/l, you should report the detected level in pCi/l (rather than mrem/year). Reporting this way provides consumers a standard against which to compare that detected level. In the MCL column of your table include 50\* (rather than the actual MCL of 4 mrem/year) and include a footnote to the table that says the following:

*“\*The State considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.”*

If you detect beta particles above 50 pCi/L, you must determine the actual radioactive constituents present in the water to calculate the dose exposure levels in mrem/year, and must report both the detected level and MCL as mrem/year. If you need assistance in determining the dose exposure levels in mrem/year, you should contact the DOH.

11. For each detected contaminant you must include the likely contaminant source, using the best information you have available. For example, information on potential contaminant sources may be included in the **Source Water Assessment**. If you lack reliable information on the specific source of a contaminant, include one or more of the typical sources listed in Table 1 that is most applicable to your situation. Please note, if you have a detected contaminant and its likely contaminant source is listed as a metal refinery and there are not metal refineries in your area, don't say that metal refineries are the source of the contaminant in your water.
12. For any contaminant detected in **violation of a MCL, or a TT, or exceeding an AL**, clearly highlight in the table the violation or the exceedance. This indication could, for example, take the form of a different color type, a footnote, a separate column, or a larger or bolder font. Near, but not in the table, you must include an explanation of the length of the violation/exceedance, the potential adverse health effects (from Table 1), and the actions taken to address the violation/exceedance.

**Multiple Distribution Systems** – If your system supplies water through two or more distribution systems that use different raw water sources and are not physically interconnected, you may want to include in the table a separate column of detection data for each service area. Describe the area that each distribution system serves.

An example of a table of detected contaminants is presented below. In this example, the Village system uses conventional filtration and serves less than 10,000 people. Additional guidance for reporting detected contaminants is presented in Appendix B.

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**Example:**

*In accordance with State regulations, the Village of Tyler routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for coliform bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and synthetic organic contaminants. The table presented below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.*

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform <sup>1</sup>	No	05/20	3 positive samples	n/a	n/a	TT = 2 or more positive samples after April 1, 2016. MCL= 2 or more positive samples before April 1, 2016.	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	No	05/5/20	0.9 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= ≤ 1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	No	05/10/20	96% ≤ 0.3	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride	No	5/18	0.66 ND-0.66	mg/l	n/a	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
Copper	No	06/10/19	1.1 <sup>3</sup> 0.55 – 1.3	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	Yes	06/10/19	23 <sup>4</sup> ND – 35	ug/l	0	AL- 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>							
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	10/12/20	6.1	ng/l	N/A	MCL = 10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	6/20	50 <sup>5</sup> 20 – 75	ug/l	n/a	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Notes:</b>							
1 – Since we had more than 2 total coliform-positive routine/repeat samples in the same month, we triggered a Level 1 assessment. This assessment is to assess the coliform contamination and take corrective action against sanitary defects in the water system.							
2 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 5/5/20 (.9 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Although May 2020 was the month when we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.							
3 – The level presented represents the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the							

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (1.1 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.							
4 – The level presented represents the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the 10 sites tested.							
5 – This level represents the highest locational running annual average calculated from data collected.							
<b>Definitions:</b>							
<b>Maximum contaminant Level (MCL)</b> - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.							
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</b> - 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.							
<b>Action Level (AL)</b> - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.							
<b>Treatment Technique (TT)</b> – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.							
<b>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)</b> - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.							
<b>Milligrams per liter (mg/l)</b> – corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).							
<b>Micrograms per liter (ug/l)</b> – corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).							
<b>Nanograms per liter (ng/l)</b> – corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion – ppt).							
<b>Non-Detects (ND)</b> – Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.							

*The table shows that we triggered a Level 1 assessment for total coliform and had an Action Level exceedance for lead. On May 15, 2020, one of the 3 monthly samples collected indicated the presence of total coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. Three additional samples were subsequently collected on May 16, 2020, and two of those indicated the presence of total coliform, causing us to trigger a Level 1 assessment. Resulting from the assessment, we determined that the problem could be corrected through a readjustment of our disinfection system and increasing chlorine residuals. Total coliform was not detected in additional samples. It should be noted that E. Coli, associated with human and animal fecal waste, was not detected in any of the samples collected.*

*The table revealed that the water level for lead exceeded the action level of 15 ug/l in more than 10 percent of the homes tested. 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. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and you should flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your tap water. Additional information regarding lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).*

*The Tyler Water Department has implemented a program to minimize lead levels in your drinking water. This program includes: 1) the addition of corrosion control chemicals; 2) the replacement of lead service lines; and 3) public education. The system will be conducting lead and copper testing again in 2021.*



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## ITEM 4B: REPORTING ON NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

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Information on non-detected contaminants from sampling used to determine compliance **must** be included in the Annual Water Quality Report. This information **may not** be included in the Table of Detected Contaminants described in Section 5.0, Item 4 of this document. This information may be described in a brief narrative or presented in the report as a separate table or list.

### Example:

*According to State regulations, the Sunnyside Water District routinely monitors your drinking water for various contaminants. Your water is tested for inorganic contaminants, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants and disinfection byproducts. Additionally, your water is tested for coliform bacteria four times a month. The contaminants detected in your drinking water are included in the Table of Detected Contaminants.*

Another example of the narrative could include adding a paragraph after your table of detected contaminants which lists the individual contaminants that were analyzed for but not detected.

### Example:

*In total, 10 drinking water compliance samples were collected at the system. The following contaminants were not detected: antimony, arsenic, beryllium, benzene, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, carbon tetrachloride, chloroethane, chloromethane, 4-chlorotoluene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 2,2-dichloropropane, 1,1-dichloropropene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, ethylbenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, trichloroethene, trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, xylene, acenaphthene, acenaphthylene, acetochlor, anthracene, betazon, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, bromocil, carboxin, chrysene, 2,4-DB, p'p-DDD, p'p-DDE, p'p-DDT, dioxin, EPTC, fluoranthene, fluorene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, malathion, molinate, naphthalene, 4-nitrophenol, paraquat, parathion, and vernolate.*

Please note that the contaminants listed above represent only a sample of those required to be tested. Instead of presenting non-detected contaminants in a narrative format you may choose to present this information in a tabular format particularly when monitoring is done at different frequencies for groups of contaminants (i.e., inorganic contaminant monitoring done once every three years).

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## ITEM 5: GROUNDWATER RULE REPORTING

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency promulgated the ground water Rule in November 2006 with a compliance begin date of December 1, 2009. This rule has implications for the preparation of a community water system's annual water quality report. The ground water rule requires that public notice be made of any significant deficiencies found or of source water fecal contamination identified.

A community ground water system that receives notice from the State of a significant deficiency or notice from a laboratory of a fecal-positive ground water source sample that is not invalidated by the State must inform its customers of any significant deficiency that is uncorrected at the time of the next report or of any fecal indicator-positive ground water sample in the next report. The system must continue to inform the public annually until the State

determines that particular significant deficiency is corrected or the fecal contamination in the ground water source is addressed. Each report must include the following elements.

1. The nature of the particular significant deficiency or the source of the fecal contamination (if the source is known) and the date the significant deficiency was identified by the State or the dates of the fecal indicator positive ground water source samples;
2. If the fecal contamination in the ground water source has been addressed and the date of such action;
3. For each significant deficiency or fecal contamination in the ground water source that has not been addressed, the State-approved plan and

schedule for correction, including interim measures, progress to date, and any interim measures completed; and

4. If the system receives notice of a fecal indicator-positive ground water source sample that is not invalidated by the State, the potential health effects

using the health effects language of Table 1.

If directed by the State, a system with significant deficiencies that have been corrected before the next report is issued must inform its customers of the significant deficiency, how the deficiency was corrected, and the date of correction.

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## ITEM 6: REPORTING ON *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM*, *GIARDIA*, RADON AND UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

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### *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

If you monitored for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* and did not detect them, you do not need to discuss the monitoring or the results in your report.

- If your system performed monitoring which indicates the presence of *Cryptosporidium* either in its **source** or its **finished water**, include a summary describing: the sampling sites; the number of tests conducted during the reporting year; the testing results; any actions taken in response to those results; and an explanation of the significance of the results. An example is provided below.

#### **Example:**

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2020, as part of our routine sampling plan, 25 samples of Placid Reservoir source water were collected and analyzed for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. Of these samples, three were presumed positive for *Cryptosporidium*, and one was confirmed positive. Therefore, our monitoring 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. Five additional filtered water samples were tested for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and none were detected. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. 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.*

- If your system performed monitoring which indicates the presence of *Giardia* either in its **source** or its **finished water**, include a summary describing: the sampling sites; the number of tests conducted during the reporting year; the testing results; any actions taken in response to those results; and an explanation of the significance of the results. An example is provided below.

#### **Example:**

*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. During 2020, as part of our routine sampling plan, 25 samples of Placid Reservoir source water were collected and analyzed for *Giardia* cysts. Of these samples, ten were presumed positive for *Giardia*, and one was confirmed positive. Therefore, our monitoring 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. Five additional filtered water samples were tested for *Giardia* cysts and none were detected. 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 settings where handwashing practices are poor.

### Radon

If your system performed monitoring that indicates the **presence of radon** in its **finished water**, include a summary describing: the sampling sites; the number of tests conducted during the reporting year; the testing results; any actions taken in response to those results; and an explanation of the significance of the results.

#### Example:

*Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes.*

*In 2020, we collected four representative water samples (one per quarter) that were analyzed for radon. The average of the four samples was 250 picocuries/liter (pCi/l). For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).*

### Unregulated Contaminants

If your system performed monitoring for the EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) within the last five years, you must report the monitoring results of any detected contaminants in the Table of Detected Contaminants. Your report must identify a person and a phone number to

contact for information on the monitoring results. If your system performed monitoring under UCMR but did not detect any contaminants, you may delete this section from your report.

#### Example:

*In 2018, we were required to collect and analyze drinking water samples for the following unregulated contaminants: (list contaminant names, number of samples, and date collected). You may obtain the monitoring results by calling (provide contact name) at (provide telephone number).*

If your system performed additional monitoring (outside of EPA's UCMR program) for unregulated contaminants on the UCMR contaminant list (e.g. microcystin, total permethrin(cis and trans)) as requested by the State, you must report the monitoring results of any detected contaminants in the Table of Detected Contaminants. The USEPA Health Advisory Level (if available) should be included along with the definition of a Health Advisory Level.

If your system performed additional monitoring (outside of EPA's UCMR program) for unregulated contaminants, you should report the monitoring results of any detected contaminants in a table separate from the Table of Detected Contaminants for compliance monitoring. Including an explanation of this additional monitoring is recommended. The USEPA Health Advisory Level (if available) should also be included along with the definition of a Health Advisory Level. Monitoring for unregulated compounds conducted in accordance with Subpart 5-1, Table 9C, footnote 3 should be included on this table.

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## ITEM 7: ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARSENIC, NITRATE, LEAD AND FLUORIDE

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If your water contains:

- **Nitrate** above 5 mg/l, but below 10 mg/l (the MCL);
- **Arsenic** above 5 ug/l, but below 10 ug/l (the MCL);
- **Lead** A system must provide information on lead in drinking water irrespective of whether the system detected lead in any of its samples. **Lead** above 15 ug/l (the Action Level) in more than 5%, but fewer than 10%, of the sites sampled [if your system samples fewer than 20 sites and has even one sample above the AL, you will need to include the standard explanation for

an AL exceedance]; and/or

- **Fluoride** above 2 mg/l, but below 2.2 mg/l (the MCL), you must include in your report the relevant educational statement listed below about the contaminant.
- **Nitrate.** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from you health care

provider.

- **Arsenic.** NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
- **Lead.** 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. *[Water Supply Name]* 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>.

- **Fluoride.** Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

If you believe that the language above is not relevant to your situation, you may adjust the language in consultation with the DOH.

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## ITEM 8: COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER STATE SANITARY CODE REQUIREMENTS

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In some instances the reporting periods of the AWQR and the Public Notification Rule (PN) are in sync and use of the AWQR to fulfill PN requirements may be utilized. If you are using the AWQR to fulfill the Tier 3 PN requirements for violations incurred during the year then all information specified in the PN Rule including content, presentation, and standard language requirements must be included in your report.

If your water system violated any of the below listed State Sanitary Code requirements, during the year covered by the report, your Annual Water Quality Report must describe the violation(s). Just as you must explain the potential health effects of any MCL violation, you must provide a clear and readily understandable explanation of any other violation, potential adverse health effects (if any), and the steps the system has taken to correct the violation.

### ➤ Treatment Techniques

**1. Filtration and disinfection** (Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements [and/or Ground Water System requirements](#)). If the violation was a failure to install adequate filtration or disinfection equipment or processes, or there was a failure of that

equipment or process, include the following language:

*Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.*

**2. Lead and copper control requirements.** If the violation was a failure to meet corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, or lead service line requirements, include the health effects language for lead or copper listed in Table 1.

**3. Acrylamide and Epichlorohydrin.** If you violate either treatment technique, you must include the relevant health effects language from Table 1.

- **Monitoring, Reporting, and Record Keeping Requirements.** If your system failed to take the sample on time, the report should say "health effects unknown". If your system took the samples accurately and on time, but mailed the results late, you do not need to discuss health

effects.

- **Variances, Exemptions, Administrative or Judicial Orders.** If your system operated under a variance or exemption at any time during the year covered by the report, include an explanation of the variance or exemption, the date that it was issued, why it was granted, when it is up for renewal, and a status report on what

the system is doing to remedy the problem. Also, inform your customers how they may participate in the review of the variance or exemption.

Additionally, the report must include a description of any violation of a variance, an exemption, or an administrative or judicial order.

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## ITEM 9: EDUCATIONAL STATEMENTS

Your Annual Water Quality Report must include the following three statements:

1. 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 (1-800-426-4791).
2. 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).

3. 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 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.

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## ITEM 10: OTHER INFORMATION

You are not limited to providing only the required information in your Annual Water Quality Report. You may use the report to explain source water protection efforts, include a diagram of your treatment processes, and/or explain the costs associated with making the water safe to drink. You may include a statement from the mayor or general manager or you could educate your customers about water conservation, taste and odor issues, affiliations with programs such as the Partnership for Safe Water, and so forth. You may want to provide the address for EPA's drinking water web site ([www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)) or the DOH web site

([www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)). The only limitation on this information is that it must not interfere with the educational purpose of the report.

Community water systems with fewer than 1,000 service connections are encouraged to include relevant information addressed in the Section 6.0 of this document. Small systems may wish to include information on water conservation measures, since conservation may decrease a system's energy costs and reduce source demand and the use of treatment chemicals.

## 6.0 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CWSS WITH 1,000 OR MORE SERVICE CONNECTIONS

In addition to the report content requirements outlined above, systems with 1,000 or more service connections are also required to include six additional items in their Annual Water Quality

Reports (Section 1150 of New York State's Public Health Law). A description of each of these items is provided below.

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### ITEM 1: WATER USE DESCRIPTION

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For systems that calculate water use of all customers with meters, the Annual Water Quality Report must contain an accounting of the total annual amount of water withdrawn, delivered, and lost from the system.

**Example:**

*During 2020, the total amount of water withdrawn from the aquifer was 1,926,190,000 gallons. Approximately 94% of the total amount of water withdrawn was billed directly to consumers. The balance, or unaccounted for water, was used for fire fighting purposes, hydrant use by Town trucks for street sweeping, distribution system leaks and unauthorized use.*

**Example:**

*During 2020, a total of 296,700,000 gallons of water was pumped from Mirror Lake into the Village system. The Town of Evans purchased 66,294,676 gallons, the Town of Marcy purchased 27,405,360*

*gallons, and the Village of Brighton purchased 19,318,000. Village residents including the Correctional Facilities used 100,155,005 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 83,526,959 gallons. This is the amount of water used during flushing, in Village buildings, and lost due to old and inaccurate meters needing replacement.*

**Example:**

*The Skyward Water Company provides service to more than 265,000 people. About 70 percent of our water supply comes from 55 wells located throughout the county. The remaining 30 percent of our supply is surface water which comes from the Crystal Reservoir. In 2020, the Skyward Water Company produced 10,550.2 million gallons (MG) of water and sold 9,064.5 MG. We determined that 1,541 MG or 14.6% of the water we produced is non-revenue-producing water. This is water lost due to leaks, main breaks, under-registering meters, fire fighting, hydrant flushing and theft of service.*

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### ITEM 2: WATER SOURCE RESTRICTION

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Your Annual Water Quality Report must include a brief description of any water source that was restricted, removed from service, or otherwise limited in its use, during the reporting year. The report should also explain any actions taken to secure new supplies or replace lost capacity.

**Example:**

*Our water supply includes both groundwater drawn from 20 wells located throughout the county and surface water from the Placid Reservoir. Well #19 (one of four wells located at the southeast corner of Sunnyside Road and Maple Avenue) was temporarily removed from service in July 2020 as a result of drought conditions. The well was placed back on-line in October 2020*

**Example:**

*All of the water we supply to you comes from beneath the ground and is referred to as groundwater. We draw this water into our system through over 100 wells located throughout the county. During 2020, four wells were removed from service. The Hillcrest Well located in the Village of Colden was removed because it did not meet the current standard for nitrate. In January, three wells located in the Town of Skylight were removed from service because they did not meet the current organic standard from tetrachloroethene. These wells were brought back into routine service in December, as a result of the use of granular activated carbon filtration.*

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### ITEM 3: WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

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Your Annual Water Quality Report must include an explanation of water conservation measures available to customers, such as, but not limited to: retrofitting plumbing fixtures, altering irrigation timing, using irrigation sensors, leak detection, proper use of water conserving appliances, daily conscientious water use and the estimated savings in water and energy or money from the use of such measures.

#### **Example:**

*Although our area is very fortunate to have access to a water supply which more than meets our demands, conservation efforts by both the city and the consumer are prudent in deterring increasing costs. As a consumer you can participate in this water conservation effort. The following are some ideas that can be directly applied to your individual homes: 1) Use water-saving, flow-restricting shower heads and low flow faucets (aerators); 2) Repair dripping faucets and toilets that seem to flush by themselves; 3) Replace your toilet with a low flush model or place a brick in your tank to reduce the volume used on each flush; 4) Water your garden and lawn only when necessary. Remember that a layer of mulch in the flower beds and garden is not only aesthetically pleasing but will help retain moisture; 5) Water your lawn after 6:00 p.m., this prevents water loss due to evaporation; 6) When washing your car don't let the hose run continuously; and 7) When brushing your teeth, shaving or shampooing avoid running the water unnecessarily.*

#### **Example:**

***Why Save Water and How Do We 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 and saving yourself money in the process 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:*

- ◆ *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 an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.*
- ◆ *Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.*

***Example:*** *The Town of Savewater encourages water conservation. Although the Snake River is an unlimited source of good quality water, it must not be wasted. A few simple steps will preserve the resource for future generations and also save up to 30% on your bill.*

- ◆ *Use low flow shower heads and faucets*
- ◆ *Repair all leaks in your plumbing system*
- ◆ *Water your lawn sparingly early morning or late evening*
- ◆ *Do only full loads of wash and dishes*
- ◆ *Wash your car with a bucket and hose with a nozzle*
- ◆ *Don't cut the lawn too short; longer grass saves water*

◆ Pamphlets are available at the Water Billing

Department in the Town Hall.

#### ITEM 4: FACILITY MODIFICATION

A description of any major facility modifications completed by the water system during the reporting period should be included in the Annual Water Quality Report. This description should include the effect the modification had on the water system. Additionally, the report should include a discussion of capital improvements needed or planned.

**Example:**

*In 2020, the White Water District completed construction of the new filter plant building on Grace Avenue. This building will eventually house a pressure filter that will be used to enhance the quality of the finished water. New water mains have been installed on South Main Street as part of a two year project of water main replacement in that area.*

*In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.*

**Example:**

*During 2020, the Village redeveloped all five of its groundwater wells. The five wells were originally installed in 1995 and were redeveloped at a cost of \$60,000. After about 10 years, the yield on each well drops below the useful point and the well must*

*be abandoned. A new well can be drilled as close as 10 feet away. Using this approach, the Village will be able to drill new wells as needed.*

**Example:**

*In 2020, we completed construction of a pilot plant at the water treatment facility. This pilot plant is capable of completely modeling all of our treatment processes at a flow of up to 10 gallons per minute or 0.1% of the full plant capacity. The pilot plant is currently being operated to model our existing processes in effort to optimize treatment and as a training tool for our staff. In 2021, we will evaluate treatment enhancements that can be implemented to further improve quality and reliability, reduce costs and increase plant capacity without the construction of new processes.*

**Example:**

*During 2020, the Village of Whiteface implemented several projects to serve you better. We added 10,000 feet of new water distribution pipe throughout the Village. Construction work was also completed on a new 1-million-gallon storage tank. This tank will provide additional fire protection flow for residents. Standby power equipment and other improvements will be completed at the Lakeview Water Treatment Plant. We anticipate that other work will be completed in order to comply with New York State Chemical Bulk Storage regulations.*

#### ITEM 5: ANNUAL AVERAGE CHARGE FOR WATER

Systems that bill their customers must include the annual average charge for water in their Annual Water Quality Report. This may be reported as the annual charge per average resident user or the annual charge per one thousand gallons of water delivered.

**Example:**

*Our water rate structure is designed to promote conservation; the more you use, the more you pay. The average consumer pays a minimum quarterly charge of \$6.00 for 8,000 gallons and \$0.65 per thousand gallons for the next 50,000 gallons. Large users who pay 0.85 per thousand gallons for the next 42,000 gallons and \$1.05 per thousand gallons for usage over 100,000 are encouraged to lower their consumption, and at the same time, their household*

*costs.*

**Example:**

*The cost per thousand gallons of water in the Village of Waterville in 2020 was \$1.40, down 28% from the 2015 rate.*

**Example:**

*In 2020, City water customers were charged \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons while Town customers were charged \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons plus an annual water tax of \$23.00.*

**Example:**

*The water rate is \$2.05 per 1,000 gallons with a 7,000-gallon minimum quarterly. Water bills are*



mailed our quarterly and unpaid balances are subject to a 10% penalty after 30 days. The average annual charge for water for a family of four is approximately \$250.00.

**Example:**

*The New York Public Service Commission sets our water rates to cover the costs of providing service. The average residential customer uses*

*approximately 3,000 cubic feet of water (22,440 gallons) per quarter. The average bill is approximately \$437 annually (including taxes). A typical dollar pays for system improvements, operations and maintenance, taxes, interest and debt, dividends and reinvestment and depreciation costs.*

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**ITEM 6: ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SUPPLEMENT**

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The analytical results for samples of source(s) of water supply may be placed in a supplement to the Annual Water Quality Report, unless the results are: (1) for *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia*; (2) used to determine compliance (see page 8); or (3) listed in Table 1 of this document. Therefore, the supplement may be used to publish detailed individual well results. For example, the Annual Water Quality Report regulation requires you to report the highest detected level, highest average, or running annual average (based on compliance calculations – see page 8) and the range of detects, detailed information for individual well results will not be included in your Annual Water Quality Report. This detailed information shall be placed in the supplement. Additionally, the supplement may be used to publish raw water quality data not used for compliance monitoring.

It should be noted that not all systems with 1,000 or more service connections need to prepare a supplement. Systems must prepare a supplement if they have collected any data during the previous calendar year that was not required to be included in their Annual Water Quality Report. If a supplement is prepared, the Annual Water Quality Report must

contain a statement that describes what is in the supplement and that it is available to the customer upon request. The supplement does not have to be mailed or directly delivered to all of your bill-paying customers. However it must be:

- (1) published in a notice at least one-half page in size in one newspaper of general circulation within the water district; or
- (2) made available on the Internet, along with supplements from the two prior years, if such supplements exist, and notice of the availability of such information on the Internet should be clearly provided in the report and on each billing statement; or
- (3) made available at all New York State documents information access centers, document reference centers, documents depository libraries and documents research depository libraries within the water district and if no such libraries exist within the water district at a public library within the water district, and notice of availability of the supplement at such library or libraries shall be clearly provided in the report and on each billing statement.

**7.0 WHAT SHOULD AN ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT LOOK LIKE?**

You do not need a fancy computer or a graphic designer to produce an Annual Water Quality Report that is easy to read and inviting to your customers. The DOH has developed two Annual Water Quality Report templates (one for systems serving fewer than 1,000 service connections and one for systems serving 1,000 or more service connections) that are available to water suppliers. Electronic copies of the templates will be available on the New York State DOH web page at [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov) (click on the Topics A to Z button, go to “Drinking Water” and “Annual Water Quality Reports”). Although the State has prepared template reports, you are not

required to use these templates to complete your Annual Water Quality Report. You may choose to use portions of the templates or create your own report format. Remember that the best way to design your report is to spend some time looking at the template or at other reports. See what catches your eye and copy it. A few things to consider:

- Write short sentences. Keep your paragraphs short, too.
- Don’t make your text size too small. You might want to squeeze a few extra sentences in your

report, but if you add too much, people might ignore the entire report.

- Give a draft of your Annual Water Quality Report to relatives or friends who aren't drinking water experts and ask them if it makes sense. Ask customers for their comments when you publish the report.
- Don't distract from your main message with graphics and/or pictures that don't complement your message.
- Be as simple and straight forward as possible. Avoid acronyms, initials, and jargon.
- Consider printing the report on recycled paper and taking other steps to make the report "environmentally friendly". If you hope to get your customers involved in source water protection, set a good example for them.

## 8.0 HOW MUST A CWS DISTRIBUTE ITS ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

### ITEM 1: REPORT DISTRIBUTION TO CUSTOMERS

You must mail or directly deliver a copy of your Annual Water Quality Report to each of your bill-paying customers and make a good faith effort to get your reports to non-bill-paying customers by May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

The USEPA has issued a memorandum (see Appendix E) which clarifies requirements for the report to allow for electronic delivery if the delivery will meet the regulatory requirement to "mail or otherwise directly deliver".

Appendix E also describes the approaches and methods for electronic delivery that are consistent with the current regulatory requirements.

It is in your system's interest to spread the word

about the quality of its water. Since many consumers of your water do not receive bills (people such as apartment renters), you must make a serious and good faith effort to reach non-bill-paying consumers. A good faith effort means selecting the most appropriate method(s) to reach those consumers from a menu of options. Some examples of mailing, direct delivery and good faith distribution efforts are provided below. Many small systems (i.e., mobile home parks, apartment complexes, and institutions) have no bill paying customers. These systems may satisfy the direct delivery requirement by posting their Annual Water Quality Report in a public area or on a community bulletin board.

Distribution Method	Examples
Mailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Postal Service</li> <li>• Utilizing a Bulk Mailing Permit</li> <li>• Including report with water bills</li> </ul>
Direct Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of the Annual Water Quality Report in a local paper that is <b>delivered to all</b> bill-paying customers (i.e., <i>Penny Saver</i>, <i>Free Trader</i>)</li> <li>• Hand delivery of the Annual Water Quality Report by meter readers or system personnel (please note: information can not be placed in U.S. Postal Service mail boxes)</li> <li>• Publication of the Annual Water Quality Report in a municipal newsletter that is delivered to all bill-paying customers.</li> <li>• Mail a notification that the AWQR is available on website via a direct URL (i.e. provide URL on quarterly/monthly billing statement, newsletter or postcard)</li> <li>• Emailed with a direct URL to the AWQR</li> <li>• Emailed with AWQR sent as an attachment to the email</li> <li>• Emailed with AWQR sent as an embedded image in the email</li> <li>• Additional electronic delivery that meets "otherwise directly deliver" requirement</li> </ul>
Good Faith Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posting the report on the Internet</li> <li>• Posting the report on a community, mobile home park or apartment building bulletin board</li> <li>• Mailing the report to all postal patrons</li> <li>• Advertising the availability of the report in newspapers, TV, and radio</li> <li>• Publishing the report in a local newspaper; posting the report in a public area (i.e., municipal buildings, libraries, schools, churches)</li> <li>• Delivering multiple reports for distribution by single-billed customers such as apartment buildings or large private employers</li> <li>• Delivering the report to community organizations.</li> </ul>

Community water systems must keep their reports on file for five years and make the reports available to the public upon request.

Systems that serve more than 100,000 individuals must post their reports on the internet.

The DOH encourages other systems to post their reports on the Internet as well. Many local

governments have Internet sites where you could post your report, even if your system itself does not have a site.

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## ITEM 2: REPORT DISTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND REPORT CERTIFICATION

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By May 31<sup>st</sup> all community water systems must submit a **copy of their Annual Water Quality Report** to the New York State Department of Health in Albany, New York and to the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system. The address for the New York State Department of Health is provided below. An address list for the county and district health department offices is provided in Appendix A.

NYS Department of Health  
Bureau of Water Supply Protection  
Corning Tower, Room 1110  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

In lieu of mailing hard copies of the AWQR and Certification form to the NYSDOH, community water systems are strongly encouraged to email separate PDF copies of each to:

[AWQR@health.ny.gov](mailto:AWQR@health.ny.gov)

When emailing PDFs please be sure the file name includes the PWS ID and year (for example: **NY7003493\_AWQR2020.pdf** or **NY7003493\_CERT2020.pdf**)

**Systems with 1,000 or more service connections should also submit a copy of their supplement, if prepared, to the New York State Department of Health.**

By May 31<sup>st</sup> all community water systems that serve 1,000 or more service connections must **also** submit

a **copy of their Annual Water Quality Report and a copy of the supplement**, if prepared, to the New York State Department of Conservation at the following address:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Attn: Division of Water,  
Bureau of Water Resource Management  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

By May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, **investor-owned** (regulated by the Public Service Commission) community water systems must also forward a **copy of their Annual Water Quality Report** to the New York State Department of Public Service at the following address:

Water Rates Section  
New York State Department of Public Service  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

By September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, community water systems must submit a **Certification Form** to the New York State Department of Health in Albany, New York and to the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system. The certification must indicate how the report was distributed and that the information within the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the state. A sample Certification Form is included in Appendix C.

## 9.0 APPLICABLE DATES

A table of applicable dates for the Annual Water Quality Report regulation is presented below.

Date	Description of Action Item
April 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="440 1780 1481 1929">A community water system that sells water to another community water system must deliver information outlined in Section 5.0, items 2, 4, 4B, 5, and 6. For systems with 1,000 or more service connections, the seller must also supply them with the information outlined in Section 6.0, items 2 and 6.</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Action Item</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The April 1<sup>st</sup> date may be changed to a different date if the seller and the purchaser mutually agree upon the new date, and specifically include that date in a contract between the parties.</li> </ul>
May 31 <sup>st</sup> of each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems must deliver a copy of their report to their bill-paying customers and take good faith efforts to reach consumers who do not get water bills.</li> <li>• Community water systems with fewer than 1,000 service connections must deliver a copy of their report to the New York State Department of Health and to the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system.</li> <li>• Community water systems with 1,000 or more service connections must submit a copy of their Annual Water Quality Report and the supplement, if prepared, to the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the county or district health department office which has jurisdiction over the water system.</li> <li>• Investor-owned community water systems must forward a copy of the Annual Water Quality Report to the New York State Department of Public Service.</li> <li>• A new community water system must deliver its first report to its customers and a copy of the report and the supplement, if prepared to the required regulatory agencies by May 31<sup>st</sup> after its first full calendar year in operation and annually thereafter.</li> </ul>
September 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All community water systems must submit a Certification Form to the New York State Department of Health in Albany and to the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1**

**APPENDIX A - LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**APPENDIX B - INTERPRETING MONITORING DATA**

## APPENDIX B Interpreting Monitoring Data

The information presented in this appendix provides examples of how to interpret your monitoring data for inclusion in the Table of Detected Contaminants (see Section 5.0, Item 4).

➤ **1 Sampling site/1 sampling date:**

March 2020 – 0.003 ug/l

**What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?**

Report the highest level detected 0.003 ug/l. You do not need to report a range.

➤ **Multiple Sampling sites/1 sampling date:**

Barium	February 2020
Well 1	0.60
Well 2	0.46
Well 3	ND

**What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?**

Report the highest level detected 0.60 and the range ND – 0.60.

➤ **1 Sampling site/Multiple sampling dates:**

Atrazine	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020
Well 1	0.80	3.8	2.1	0.9

**What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?**

Report the average = 1.9 and the range 0.8-3.8.

➤ **Multiple sampling sites/Multiple sampling dates:**

Total Trihalomethanes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020
Site 1	-	-	-	45	60	125	70
Site 2	-	-	-	40	55	115	60
Site 3	-	-	-	45	60	105	70
Site 4	-	-	-	50	65	135	80
Quarterly Average	55	125	65	45	60	120	70
Rolling Annual Average	-	-	-	73	74	73	74



### What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?

Report the highest annual average = 74 and the range 40-135.

Notes: The last 3 quarters of 2019 are shown because you need them to compute the rolling annual average. The range would include only detection data from 2020, unless one of the values from the previous year was so extraordinary that consumers would need it to understand the reported annual average.

If your locational running annual average exceeds 80 (the MCL), your report must include the health effects language for TTHMs.

### ➤ Lead and Copper

For lead and copper results you report the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value from the most recent sampling (if it was detected above the detection limit), the range of detections, and the number of sampling sites that exceeded the action level. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected at your water system.

Lead	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Site 9	Site 10
June 2020	ND	ND	8	12	19	3	ND	ND	4	22

In this case, you would list the samples in order of lowest level detected to highest level detected (see below).

Lead	Site 1	Site 2	Site 7	Site 8	Site 6	Site 9	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 10
June 2020	ND	ND	ND	ND	3	4	8	12	19	22

The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value would be the 9<sup>th</sup> highest sample detected – 19.

### What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?

Report the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value = 19, the range of detections – ND-22, and the number of sites above the action level of 15, in this case there were 2 results above the action level (See below).

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	Yes	6/20	19 <sup>1</sup> ND – 22	ug/l	0	AL- 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
<p>1 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (19 ug/l). The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the sites tested.</p> <p>The table reveals that the water level for lead exceeded the action level of 15 ug/l in more than 10 percent of the homes tested. 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. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and you should flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your tap water. Additional information regarding lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).</p>							

If your system takes less than 10 lead or copper samples you would report the average of the two highest levels detected in your table.

Lead	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
June 2020	ND	8	5	ND	14

Again, you would list the samples in order of lowest level detected to highest level detected (see below).

Lead	Site 1	Site 4	Site 3	Site 2	Site 5
June 2020	ND	ND	5	8	14

#### What should be reported in Table of Detected Contaminants?

Report the average of the two highest values = 11, the range of detections – ND-14, and the number of sites above the action level of 15, in this case there were no results above the action level (See below).

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	No	6/20	11 <sup>1</sup> ND – 14	ug/l	0	AL- 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
1 – During 2020 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for lead. The level included in the table represents the average of the two highest levels detected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.							

*Note: The following table will help you determine your 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value.*

Number of Samples	How to determine 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
2-4	Take the highest level detected.
5-9	Take the average of the two highest levels detected.
10	Value of the 9 <sup>th</sup> highest level detected.
20	Value of the 18 <sup>th</sup> highest level detected.
30	Value of the 27 <sup>th</sup> highest level detected.
40	Value of the 36 <sup>th</sup> highest level detected.
50	Value of the 45 <sup>th</sup> highest level detected.

A system must provide information on lead in drinking water irrespective of whether the system detected lead in any of its samples. If above 15 ug/l the Action Level (AL) in more than 5%, but fewer than 10%, of the sites sampled [or if your system samples fewer than 20 sites and has even one sample above the Action Level (AL), you will need to include the standard explanation for an AL exceedance.

*Lead. 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. [NAME OF UTILITY] 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>.*

## ➤ **Turbidity**

### **Turbidity as an Indicator of Filtration Performance**

When reporting turbidity as an indicator of filtration performance (see Table 4A of Part 5 for performance standards), systems must report the highest single measurement and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the requirements specified for that technology. In this situation (conventional filtration serving less than 10,000 people), you may want to report the data in 2 rows of your table as follows:

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	5/5/20	0.9 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= ≤ 1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	5/09/20	96% ≤ 0.3	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	

**Notes:**

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 5/5/20 (0.9 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. Although May 2020 was the month when we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, the levels recorded were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

**Systems that are Required to Install Filtration**

Systems that are required to install filtration, but have not, must report the highest monthly average for turbidity. Additionally, systems falling into this category must also include the following statement:

“Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.”

Your average monthly turbidity values are usually included in your monthly operation reports. Calculating the average of the reported daily values for each month (i.e., January 2020 – December 2020), derives this number. In your Annual Water Quality Report you would report the highest monthly average calculated for the 12-month period.

<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>6/20</b>	<b>7/20</b>	<b>8/20</b>	<b>9/20</b>	<b>10/20</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>12/20</b>
Average Monthly Value	1.0	1.2	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.3	1.4

**How should this information be reported?**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	5/20	2.7 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= ≤1NTU	Soil Runoff

**Notes:**

1 –Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest average monthly turbidity measurement (2.7 NTU) occurred in May 2020 on 5/11/20. This value is above the turbidity standard (1 NTU) assigned to our system.

*The Village of Marcy is in violation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule and is required to install a water filtration plant or develop a new water source by June 2001. Therefore, we are required to include the following statement in this report: “Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.” The Village is in the process of actively seeking funding and has hired design engineers to comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule.*

### **Filtration Avoidance Systems**

Systems that have met the State’s criteria for **avoiding filtration** must report the highest single turbidity measurement found in any one month. The report should also include an explanation of the reasons for measuring turbidity. An example of this statement is as follows:

*“Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.”*

Your highest single turbidity values are usually included in your monthly operation reports. In your Annual Water Quality Report you would report the highest single turbidity measurement found during the 12-month reporting period.

<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>6/20</b>	<b>7/20</b>	<b>8/20</b>	<b>9/20</b>	<b>10/20</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>12/20</b>
Highest Monthly Value	0.45	0.7	0.8	1.5	6.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.90	0.4	0.78	0.6

### **How should this information be reported?**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	Yes	5/15/20	6 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= ≤5NTU	Soil Runoff
<b>Notes:</b>							
1 –Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest single turbidity measurement detected during the year (6 NTU) occurred on May 15, 2020. This value is above the State’s treatment technique maximum turbidity performance standard (5 NTU).							

*The Village of Colden had a turbidity treatment technique violation in May 2020. On May 15, 2020, the turbidity level was measured at 6 NTU. This elevated turbidity measurement was attributed to heavy rains and flash flooding which occurred on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The turbidity level measurements returned to below 5 NTU on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statement in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.*



## **Distribution Turbidity Results**

Surface water systems and ground water under the direct influence of surface water systems must report the highest monthly average for turbidity measured in the distribution system.

Your average monthly turbidity values are usually included in your monthly operation reports.

Calculating the average of the reported daily values for each month (i.e., January 2020 – December 2020), derives this number. In your Annual Water Quality Report you would report the highest monthly average calculated for the 12-month period.

<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>6/20</b>	<b>7/20</b>	<b>8/20</b>	<b>9/20</b>	<b>10/20</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>12/20</b>
Average Monthly Value	1.0	1.2	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.3	1.4

### **How should this information be reported?**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Distribution Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	5/20	2.7 NTU	NTU	N/A	MCL>5NTU	Soil Runoff

#### **Notes:**

1 –Distribution Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water found in the distribution system. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest average monthly distribution turbidity measurement detected during the year (2.7 NTU) occurred in May 2020. This value is below the State’s maximum contaminant level (5 NTU).

## **Total Coliform**

### **Systems that Collect Fewer than 40 Total Coliform Samples per Month**

Systems that collect **fewer than 40 total coliform samples per month**, must report the highest number of positive samples collected in any one month. If 2 or more samples are positive for total coliform a Level 1 assessment has been triggered.

Systems are required to collect and analyze a specified number of routine samples. However, the number used to determine compliance and treatment technique triggers is the total of all routine samples **plus** all repeat samples **plus** those directed by the local health department to be taken whenever the local health department believes that the contamination may present a risk to public health.

For example, if a system is required to collect 24 routine samples per month and 2 of the routine samples were positive for total coliform, 3 repeat samples would have to be taken for each of the positive routine samples within 24 hours of being notified of the positive results. Even if the repeat samples are negative, you would trigger a Level 1 assessment for your system because you had 2 positive Total Coliform samples during

one month. This assessment would need to be completed within 30 days of triggering it.

### How should this information be reported?

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	No	5/15/20	2 positive samples	N/A	N/A	TT = 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

The table shows that we triggered a Level 1 assessment for total coliform. On May 15, 2020, two of the 24 monthly samples collected indicated the presence of total coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct three Level 1 assessment(s). Two Level 1 assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take four corrective actions and we completed four of these actions. During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessments but all sanitary defects identified through the

### Systems that Collect 40 or more Total Coliform Samples per Month

Systems that collect **40 or more total coliform samples per month**, must report the highest number of positive samples collected in any one month. If more than 5% of the samples are positive for total coliforms, then the system has triggered a Level 1 assessment that must be completed within 30 days of triggering the assessment.

Systems that are required to collect and analyze a specified number of routine samples. However, the number used to determine compliance and treatment technique triggers is the total of all routine samples **plus** all repeat samples **plus** those directed by the local health department to be taken whenever the local health department believes that the contamination may present a risk to public health.

For example, if a system is required to collect 50 routine samples per month and if 3 of the routine samples were positive for total coliforms, 3 repeat samples would have taken for each of the positive routine samples within 24 hours of being notified of the positive results. If all repeat sample results were negative the following calculations should be made:

50      Routine compliance samples  
 12      Repeat samples  
 62      Total Samples x 0.05 (maximum percent allowed to be positive per month) = 3.1

According to the calculation above, three routine compliance samples are allowed to be positive per month. Therefore, a Level 1 assessment was not triggered; however, since total coliforms were detected they must still be reported in the Annual Water Quality Report.



### How should this information be reported?

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	No	5/2020	3 positive samples	N/A	N/A	TT ≥ 5% samples positive	Naturally present in the environment

*In May 2020, total coliforms were detected in 3 of the 50 routine monthly compliance samples collected at our system. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. Nine additional samples were subsequently collected and total coliforms were not detected in those samples. Since total coliforms were detected in <5% of the samples collected during the month, the system did not trigger a Level 1 assessment. It should be noted that *E. coli*, associated with human and animal fecal waste, was not detected in any of the samples collected.*

### *E. Coli*

Systems must collect repeat samples after any total coliform or *E. coli* sample is positive. An *E. coli* MCL violation occurs when a total coliform positive sample is positive for *E. coli* and a repeat total coliform sample is positive or when a total coliform positive sample is negative for *E. coli* but a repeat total coliform sample is positive and the sample is also positive for *E. coli*.

Systems are required to collect and analyze a specified number of routine samples for total coliform. However, the number used to determine compliance and treatment technique triggers is the total of all routine samples **plus** all repeat samples **plus** those directed by the local health department to be taken whenever the local health department believes that the contamination may present a risk to public health.

For example, if a system is required to collect 24 routine samples per month and if 2 of the routine samples were positive for total coliforms, 3 repeat samples would have to be taken for each of the positive routine samples within 24 hours of being notified of the positive results. If the total coliform-positive routine sample was positive for *E. coli* and a repeat total coliform sample was positive, you would report an MCL violation for your system. An *E. coli* MCL violation would also trigger the system to conduct a Level 2 assessment within 30 days of triggering the assessment.

### How should this information be reported?

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Yes	5/17/20	2 positive samples	N/A	N/A	MCL = 1 or more positive samples	Human and animal fecal waste

The table shows that we had an MCL violation for *E. coli*. On May 15, 2020, two of the 24 monthly samples collected indicated the presence of total coliform. Six additional samples were subsequently collected on May 17, 2020; *E. coli* was detected in one of these repeat samples and thus violated the MCL for *E. coli*. *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria violating the MCL, and indicating the need to look for

potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we found *E. coli* in our water system. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed both of these actions.

**APPENDIX C - CERTIFICATION FORM**

## Annual Water Quality Report Certification Form

**Water System Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Water Supply ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

The community water system named above hereby confirms that its Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) has been distributed to customers and appropriate notices of availability have been given. Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the health department.

**Certified by:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate how your report was distributed to your customers:**

- AWQR was distributed to bill-paying customers by mail.
- AWQR was distributed by other direct delivery method(s) (check all that apply)
- Hand delivered.
  - Published in local paper (i.e., *Penny Saver*) that was directly delivered or mailed to all bill-paying customers.
  - Published in local municipal newsletter that was directly delivered or mailed.
  - Mailed a notification that AWQR is available on a public website via a direct URL
  - Emailed with a message containing a direct URL link to the AWQR
  - Emailed with AWQR sent as an attachment to the email
  - Emailed with AWQR sent as an embedded image in the email
  - Additional electronic delivery that meets “otherwise directly deliver” requirement
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- System does not have bill-paying customers.
- For systems serving at least 100,000 persons:* in addition to direct delivery to bill-paying customer the AWQR was posted on a publicly-accessible website at [www.](http://www.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what “Good Faith” efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers (check all that apply).

- Posting the Annual Water Quality Report on the Internet at [www.](http://www.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Mailing the Annual Water Quality Report to postal patrons within the service area
- Advertising the availability of the Annual Water Quality Report in the news media
- Publication of the Annual Water Quality Report in a local newspaper
- Posting the Annual Water Quality Report in public places (attach a list of locations)
- Delivery of multiple copies to single-bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large private employers
- Delivery to community organizations
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Annual Water Quality Report Certification Form

Community Water Systems must submit this Certification Form **by September 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year to the New York State Department of Health in Albany, NY and to the county or district health department office that has jurisdiction over the water system.

The certification must indicate how the water systems Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) was distributed and that the information within the AWQR is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the overseeing health department.

This Certification Form should be submitted to the New York State Department of Health in Albany:  
By mail to:

**NYS Department of Health  
Attn: Director  
Bureau of Water Supply Protection  
Corning Tower, Room 1110  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237**

Or electronically to:

**[AWQR@health.ny.gov](mailto:AWQR@health.ny.gov)**

**APPENDIX D - ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT DELIVERY OPTIONS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR WATER SUPPLIERS**

**Appendix D**  
**Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) Delivery Options**  
**Questions and Answers for Water Suppliers**

In January 2013, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) determined that specific methods of electronic delivery may be used by a community water supplier to meet the regulatory requirement to “mail or otherwise directly deliver” Consumer Confidence Reports, also known as the Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR), to their bill paying customers. In conformance with the USEPA’s efforts, community water systems in New York State may now use electronic delivery as an additional option in order to distribute the AWQR. A list of frequently asked questions along with the answers is provided to assist you with the different acceptable options.

**Q. Why the change?**

A. There has been an increase in the number and type of communication tools available to water systems since AWQR requirements were first enacted in 1999. This updated interpretation of the rules for direct delivery will improve the communication with your customers and may reduce costs associated with printing and mailing your AWQR to customers.

**Q. What does this mean for a water supplier?**

A. Beginning in 2013, there were additional options for directly delivering an AWQR. You may continue to report as you have always reported, or you may decide to use some alternative methods to distribute the AWQR to your water customers.

**Q. Does this mean I can go totally electronic (paperless)?**

A. No. It will depend on your customers. More than one method of delivery may be necessary to reach all your bill paying customers. You will be required to provide a paper copy to those customers who cannot receive the report electronically or who prefer to receive a paper copy.

**Q. What new AWQR delivery methods are now acceptable?**

A. In addition to mailing paper copies to your customers, you may now also use the following methods:

- Notification by monthly/quarterly bill, newsletter or separate mailing that the AWQR is available on a public website via a direct URL;
- Email with a message containing a direct URL link to the AWQR;
- Email with the AWQR, in electronic form, as an attachment;
- Email with the AWQR included as an embedded image.

**Q. How do we implement an electronic AWQR delivery approach?**

- A. There are two overall approaches you can take: (1) a paper AWQR delivery with an electronic AWQR delivery option; or (2) an electronic delivery with a paper AWQR delivery option.

**Q. Are there any restrictions on the URL used to provide access to the AWQR?**

A. Yes. The URL must take the customer directly to the entire AWQR. The URL must be to a public webpage that is readily viewed by commonly available browsers, and that does not require subscription, payment or login accounts. The URL must be live when the notification of the AWQR's availability on the website goes out to your customers. It is recommended that the URL be short and easy to type. Any URL that requires the customer to search for or navigate through a website to retrieve the AWQR does not meet the "directly deliver" requirement. A Community Water System should have the AWQR maintained in a prominent location on their website throughout the year.

**Q. What electronic methods are not allowed?**

A. Social media such as Twitter and Facebook, automated telephone notifications systems, and using an indirect URL that requires the customer to search for the AWQR on your water systems main website are not acceptable methods for direct delivery.

**Q. If the AWQR is posted on a website, how often do we need to make notification to our customers?**

A. At a minimum, notification must be made once annually. However, we recommend that notification be made on a more frequent basis (e.g. on customer billing statements, in newsletters, or in correspondence) to ensure the message is widely delivered.

**Q. If we decide to mail notifications that the AWQR is available on our website via a direct URL, are there rules about how the notification is displayed?**

A. Yes. The message and direct URL must be prominently displayed in a typeface that is at least as large as the largest type on the statement or other mail notification. There must also be an option included (e.g. a checkbox on return portion of the utility bill) for customers to request a paper copy, and directions must be provided on how to request a paper copy via phone, mail, or email.

**Q. What if we email a direct URL to the AWQR to customers?**

A. The email must include a direct URL link and should also include a short statement encouraging readership. The message must also provide information on how to request a paper copy of the AWQR. If an email is returned undelivered, the email must be sent to a corrected email address or the report delivered by another acceptable direct delivery method.

**Q. Is it acceptable to email customers and include the AWQR as an attachment?**

A. Yes. The AWQR as an electronic file (e.g. portable document format PDF) can be attached to an email. The email should also include a short statement encouraging readership and it must provide information on how to request a paper copy of the AWQR. If an email is returned undelivered, the email must be sent to a corrected email address or the report delivered by another acceptable direct delivery method.



**Q. Is it acceptable to email the AWQR embedded in the message?**

- A. Yes. You may email the AWQR text and tables as an image inserted into the body of an email. The email must also provide information on how to request a paper copy of the AWQR. If an email is returned undelivered, the email must be sent to a corrected email address or the report delivered by another acceptable direct delivery method.

**Q. What if I select more than one delivery method? How do I know I've reached my intended audience?**

- A. It is your responsibility to ensure delivery of the AWQR to each bill paying customer. Employing a variety of delivery methods enhances the likelihood you reached all customers.

**Q. What do I need to consider as I plan my AWQR delivery program?**

- A. Here are some recommendations:

**Know your customer base:** Find out if there are customers who don't have internet service. Learn from your past experiences including e-bill or e-pay participation, other electronic communication efforts and current website usage.

**Know your electronic delivery method capabilities:** Research the various delivery methods and your system's technical capabilities. Are you able to send mass emails? Do you have the resources to handle emails returned as undeliverable? Do you have a public website? Will your computer network, internet server, etc. support electronic AWQR delivery?

**Know your costs:** Determine the costs and benefits. Would a gradual transition benefit your system? What resources will you need and which approach will be best? Are you ready to make a change?

**Give customers a heads up and an option:** Inform customers of the change in delivery approach before delivery of the AWQRs to the customers. Give them a chance to choose if they prefer to receive paper or electronic reports.

**Get the word out and catch customers' attention:** If you are mailing a direct URL, include an option on every water bill for a customer to choose to receive a paper AWQR. Include a short message to encourage readership of the AWQR.

**Keep a record:** Record customer delivery preferences for future AWQR deliveries.

**Remind auto-pay customers:** To ensure that electronic bill and auto-pay customers are aware of their AWQR, a separate email should be sent to them.

**Respond to requests and email:** Be prepared to respond to requests for mailed paper copies of the AWQRs. If an email is returned as undeliverable, resend the AWQR by an alternative means. Keep your email database up to date.

**Q. Do we still need to certify how the AWQR was distributed?**

- A. Yes. By September 1, of each year, you must provide certification on how the AWQR was distributed. The certification form has been revised to include the electronic delivery options.

**Q. Where can we obtain more information?**

- A. Information on AWQR preparation and delivery options can be found on the New York State Health Department's website in the document, Preparing Your Drinking Water Annual Report – Guidance for Water Suppliers at:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/annual\\_water\\_quality\\_report/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/annual_water_quality_report/)

or you may contact your local health department.

**APPENDIX E - USEPA MEMORANDUM REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF CCR DELIVERY OPTIONS**

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ccr/upload/ccrdeliveryoptionsmemo.pdf>