

**Annual Water Quality Report for 2015**  
**Town of Dewitt**  
**5400 Butternut Drive**  
**East Syracuse, NY 13057**  
Prepared by Mathew Reynolds, Water Superintendent

**INTRODUCTION**

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report provided by the Town of DeWitt Water Department is prepared pursuant to the regulations and guidelines of the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this report is to provide our customers with useful information about the Town of DeWitt's water system, the quality of the water and important issues affecting your water supply. This report provides an overview of last years water quality, details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions concerning this report or your drinking water, please contact Mathew Reynolds, Town of DeWitt Water Superintendent, at (315) 446-3734x158. We want you to be informed about your drinking water and also ways to conserve this precious resource. If you would like to learn more, please stop by our office at 5400 Butternut Drive or attend an Engineering Committee Meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:30 AM. Please call to confirm meeting date and time. Information about the Town of DeWitt can also be found on our web site, [www.townofdewitt.com](http://www.townofdewitt.com). In the web site you can find information about the Town of DeWitt and links to the suppliers of our water.

The Town of DeWitt is a purchase distribution type system - **Dewitt North Federal ID # NY3316112 and Dewitt South Federal ID # NY3304343.**

## Water Quality - How do you know your water is safe?

***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.***

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets national limits on contaminant levels to ensure the safety of your drinking water. These limits are known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). For some contaminants the monitoring techniques may be unreliable, too expensive or too difficult to perform. In these cases, the EPA establishes treatment technique requirements instead of an MCL: if it can not be determined that a contaminant is not there, systems operate as if it is and provide the treatment necessary to produce safe drinking water. The EPA regulations also specify testing and reporting requirements for each contaminant. Something every regulation has in common is a requirement to notify the public if there is a regulation violation. If a regulation is violated the supplier is required to inform the consumers being served by the system. The EPA also requires water suppliers to monitor for unregulated contaminants to provide occurrence data for future regulations.

Currently the EPA has established regulations for 140 individual contaminants. This includes six microbiological contaminants, 4 radionuclides, 26 inorganic chemicals, and 106 organic chemicals. The SDWA requires the EPA to review and revise each regulation on a regular basis. For example, the MCL for trihalomethanes was lowered from 100 to 80 ug/L (parts per billion) as part of a review completed in 1997. The 1996 reauthorization of the SDWA also requires the EPA to consider at least 5 new contaminants for regulation every 5 years.

In New York, the State Health Department is responsible for enforcing EPA's regulations. The State has the option to implement alternative regulations when the alternative is equivalent to or more stringent than the EPA's regulation. In Onondaga County, due to the strength of the local unit, the State Health Department has delegated its primary enforcement and surveillance activities to the Onondaga County Health Department. The County Health Department reviews and approves all treatment plant and distribution system modifications as well as new construction. They also review all our operating and monitoring data for compliance on a monthly basis. The Authority takes a similar, cooperative approach with the Health Departments in Oswego, Oneida, Madison and Cayuga Counties.

The Authority's New York State certified water quality laboratory collects over 4,000-distribution system and 2,000-treatment plant samples each year and performs over 12,000 analyses. We also have about 600 specialized analyses performed by independent laboratories. As part of their surveillance program, the Onondaga County Health Department independently runs additional monthly surveillance monitoring on samples from our distribution system. In 2015, for water delivered to Authority customers, there were two violations to report. Both violations were for water purchased from the City of Syracuse. On October 28th- 29th and again on December 29th, 2015 high winds caused Skaneateles Lake water entering the City's intake to exceeded 5 NTU. The turbidity of Skaneateles Lake reached 35.72 NTU during the December 29th event and is considered a Treatment Technique Violation. The turbidity on October 28th reached 17.40 NTU and on October 29th it was 8.38 NTU. Since this was a 2 two day event this is an MCL Violation. Other than those exceptions, OCWA, MWB and the City of Syracuse water supply met all New York State Health Department and EPA drinking water standards. In 2015 there were no Maximum Contamination Level violations for any chemical or bacteriological contaminants.

OCWA's and MWB's raw water monitoring programs are specifically designed to address concerns about Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario as main sources of supply. In both instances raw water intakes extend from a mile to a mile and a half out into their respective lakes. This was done by design to minimize the effects of near shore currents and run-off. Lab results consistently confirm that levels of organic compounds and heavy metals do not exceed the MCL. General raw water quality remains high for both Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario. Both sources are monitored more frequently, and for a wider range of compounds than required.

A water quality summary is provided for each of the three supplies in the tables included in the appendix found at the end of this report. More detailed information can be obtained by calling OCWA's Water Quality Manager, Bob Rusyn, at 673-4304 ext. 11.

***Additional information on contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by  
Calling EPA's "Safe Drinking Water Hotline" at 1-800-426-4791***

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The population in the Town of DeWitt is approximately 25,000 people. There are 8,256 accounts served by the Town of DeWitt. Of these, 7499 are residential, 478 commercial, 10 industrial, and an additional 269 fire sprinkler systems. The Town of DeWitt does not supply water to all areas within the Town's boundary line. The Southwood portion of the Town is served by the Onondaga County Water Authority, as well as part of Jamesville and a small area West of Thompson Road off Molloy Road.

The Town's water system purchased 1,014,640,000 gallons of water from Onondaga County Water Authority and 294,296,250 gallons of water from the City of Syracuse. The total cost of water purchased was \$2,778,409.83.

The Town of DeWitt has three Fire Departments within the Town limits. The Fire Stations are metered but not charged for the water used. The Town has continued to work with the Fire Departments, to have them conserve water in order to keep this at no charge. The three Departments together used 1,180,000 gallons of water; the cost for that water would have been \$4,661.40. A total of 82% of the water purchased was sold through metered sales. Some of our loss is due to leakage, fire fighting, and street sweeping and municipal use.

## **IMPROVEMENTS:**

Last year the Town of DeWitt replaced 1,050 feet of waterline. The waterline was replaced on Benedict Road between Fly Road and 481; we also had a new 12" main installed tying together two dead end mains the end of Benedict Road and Pheasant Road this line went under route 481. In addition to those areas we replaced 15 fire hydrants. In working with the three Fire Departments that serve the Town of DeWitt, by request 3 new hydrants were installed in areas the departments had requested more fire protection. This will be an ongoing project that we will continue as each annual budget allows. We have also continued to phase out the touch read meters, with radio read interpreters in residential and commercial accounts. Letters are sent to those customers who still have the

touch read meters requesting an appointment to change the old meters out. The Town also purchased a new computer software program. This new program allows a direct connection between the Water Department billing, Tax Department collections and the Comptroller for our financial records.

## **WATER CHARGES:**

The water rates in 2015 have remained the same. We have not had an increase since 2011.

The following may answer questions about water charges you saw on your 2015 and 2016 Tax Bill. Depending on where you live you may have seen up to three different taxes for water.

1. A consolidated Water District Charge WR550 on your Tax Bill.

The consolidated district was established in 1997. New water facilities constructed after that time by the Town as well as operation and maintenance of the Town's infrastructure will be paid for through the Consolidated Water District Charge.

2. Onondaga County Water District Charge (CWR40 on your Tax Bill )

3. Unpaid water. This charge is any unpaid water bill that is at least 30 days past due.

In the third week of October we start the write off process for all accounts with a balance due that is over 30 days. In 2015 we applied a total of \$334,232.36 in unpaid water bills to the County Taxes.

All Town residents are charged for the facilities in the Onondaga County Water District. These facilities were constructed to bring water into the County from Lake Ontario. The Town has no control over these charges.

## **Water Sources and Treatment**

Customers of the Onondaga County Water Authority receive water that originates from Otisco Lake, Lake Ontario, or Skaneateles Lake. Customers located in certain areas may get a mixture of these waters or their source water may vary with changes in seasonal demand. In 2015 OCWA supplied approximately 38.9 million gallons per day to its 340,000 residential customers located in suburban Onondaga County, and parts of Madison, Oneida, Oswego, and Cayuga counties. OCWA also supplies water daily to thirty-four large industrial customers and two municipal wholesale water customers. OCWA can also supply water on an intermittent or emergency basis to seven additional municipal water systems.

OCWA treats and delivers water from Otisco Lake; the easternmost and smallest finger lake. In 2015, approximately 18.5 million gallons per day or 47.5 % of OCWA's water came from Otisco Lake. The customers receiving water originating from Otisco Lake are mostly located in the southern and western half of Onondaga County. OCWA buys water wholesale from the Metropolitan Water Board at a number of different supply connections. MWB treats water originating from Lake Ontario near the City of Oswego. In 2015, approximately 19.3 million gallons per day or 49.6% of OCWA's water came from Lake Ontario. The customers receiving water originating from Lake Ontario are mostly located in the northern and eastern half of Onondaga County. OCWA customers in Madison, Oneida, Oswego, and Cayuga counties receive all their water from Lake Ontario.

The City of Syracuse Water Department has the responsibility of treating and delivering water originating from Skaneateles Lake. In 2015, approximately 1.1 million gallons per day or 2.9 % of OCWA's water came from Skaneateles Lake water purchased from the City of Syracuse Water Department through various supply connections. OCWA uses this water to supplement areas close to the city boundary when needed. OCWA customers living in Nedrow, Southwood, and the Jamesville area, receive water from Skaneateles Lake exclusively.

The first step in water treatment is to protect the source. OCWA and the City of Syracuse have been conducting ongoing watershed inspection, monitoring, and educational programs for a number of years. These programs are in conjunction with the State and Onondaga County Departments of Health. OCWA, MWB, and the City of Syracuse all monitor lake conditions on regular intervals prior to treatment.

The New York State Department of Health has completed a Source Water Assessment Program in order to better recognize potential sources of contaminants in every water source used throughout the State. This assessment can be found in this report under the heading **SWAP Summary for OCWA**.

OCWA has 2 intake pipes located in Otisco Lake. The water entering these pipes is immediately disinfected with either Sodium hypochlorite or Chlorine dioxide to discourage the growth of zebra mussels. The water then travels, by gravity, approximately 5 miles to OCWA's Water Treatment Plant located in Marcellus, NY. Water first enters the Rapid Mix tank where a coagulant (polyaluminum chloride) and a taste and odor control chemical (powdered activated carbon) is added. After 30 seconds of mixing, the water enters the Contact Basins where the calm conditions allow the coagulant to make the small particles adhere together forming larger particles. Some of these particles settle and are cleaned out later. The contact time in these basins also allows the powdered activated carbon (used only when needed) to adsorb organic taste and odor causing chemicals. After about 1 hour of contact time the water enters the filters. Particles are removed as the water passes through one of six multimedia filters. These filters consist of granular activated carbon, silica-sand, and hi-density sand. The filters are washed periodically and the water used to do this is collected in lagoons and allowed to settle. It is then recycled back to the start of the treatment plant to be treated again. After filtration, the water is again disinfected with Sodium Hypochlorite and fluoride is added. The water is stored in large tanks located at the treatment plant to provide adequate contact time for the chlorine to work. Once the water leaves the tanks orthophosphate is added to provide a coating for the pipes in the distribution system and in your home. This is done in order to prevent the leaching of lead and copper from your pipes and into your water.

The Metropolitan Water Board pumps water from Lake Ontario through an 8 foot diameter intake it shares with the City of Oswego. Upon entering the Raw Water Pumping Station, lake water is treated with carbon dioxide to suppress pH thereby increasing the effectiveness of chemical coagulation. Potassium permanganate is applied seasonally to raw water for taste and odor control and to discourage the growth of zebra mussels. The water is pumped approximately 2 miles to MWB's treatment plant. Water entering the plant is treated with sodium hypochlorite (disinfectant) and polyaluminum chloride (coagulant) and is flash mixed. The water then enters three contact basins where slow mixing allows small particles to accumulate and form larger, more readily filtered particles. After about 2 hours of contact time, the water flows into dual media filters consisting of granular activated carbon and filter sand whereby particulate contaminants are removed. After filtration three treatments are applied: Fluoride to reduce tooth decay, sodium hypochlorite to disinfect and sodium hydroxide for corrosion control.

The City of Syracuse does not filter the water that enters their intakes located in Skaneateles Lake. The city has been granted a waiver to provide its customers with unfiltered water subject to strict conditions set by the New York State Department of Health. These conditions include water quality monitoring, backup disinfection, and watershed protection. The City of Syracuse Water Plant is located in the Village of Skaneateles. There they provide disinfection

by the addition of chlorine, and fluoridation. Water then flows by gravity into the City’s storage reservoirs. Orthophosphate is added to the water (for lead and copper control) as it leaves these reservoirs and it is disinfected again by the addition of sodium hypochlorite. In 2013 an Ultraviolet Light Treatment Facility was put into operation at Westcott Reservoir. A UV Light Treatment Facility at Woodland Reservoir was completed in April 2014. Ultraviolet disinfection allows the City to strengthen protection against microbial contaminants, especially targeting cryptosporidium. 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.

**FACTS ABOUT LEAKS:**

**WATER FROM A CONTINUOUS LEAK IS COSTLY.**

The table below illustrates how many gallons of water would be lost if allowed to run steady for a 3 month period at 60psi. To explain this table, visualize a steady stream that would fill the diameter hole shown below then notice the lost water and the cost.

<u>Diameter</u> <u>Of holes</u>	<u>Gallons</u> <u>Lost</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u> <u>Lost</u>	<u>Cost \$</u>
1/4”	1,181,500	158,000	\$ 4,399.00
1/8”	296,000	39,400	\$1,168.75
1/16”	74,000	9,850	\$ 336.35



**WATER SAVING TIPS**

- Check sink, showers and toilets for leaks. A drop a minute can amount to 2,400 gallons over the course of a year.
- Install low flow aerator in faucets and showers.
- Take showers instead of baths. A bath usually requires 36 gallons as compared to 25 gallons for a shower.
- Let grass grow longer in hot, dry months. Set your mower higher to avoid brown grass and avoid using tap water on lawns. (see rain barrels)
- Keep a pitcher of water in your refrigerator. Running water until it cools down wastes a gallon of water.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth, shaving or scraping dishes.
- Use a stopper or dishpan while washing dishes.
- Completely fill your dishwasher and clothes washer before operating.
- Older toilets hold 3 to 5 gallons of water and can be replaced with toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Flushometer toilets should be set at 3 ½ gallons, instead of 5 to 8.
- Placing a gallon jug filled with water in the tank would displace the water needed to re-fill the tank on your toilet thus saving a gallon of water per flush.
- Replace old appliances with water-savers, such as front loading washing machines and tankless hot water heaters.
- Wash your car on the lawn so water and detergents feed your lawn and do not runoff.

**Rain Barrels** - Install rain barrels at your gutter spout and reduce runoff and basement flooding. Water your lawn and garden during dry periods with rain water stored in the rain barrel; it's better for your yard because rainwater does not contain chlorine and saves you money. Modern rain barrels do not harbor mosquitoes. For more information regarding rain barrels visit our web site at [www.Townofdewitt.com](http://www.Townofdewitt.com) and go to sustainability.

**Odd/Even System** - We encourage you not to water your lawn with tap water. If you feel you must and your home address ends with an even number, you can water on even number days. Odd numbered residences can water on odd numbered days. Last summer we did not have to impose any mandatory water conservation measures. However, in the event we have a dry, hot summer we would appreciate your compliance with the odd/even system so we will be able to avoid ordering a mandatory no watering of lawns or washing of cars.

## **Water Pressure**

Water Pressure: The New York State Department of Health standard indicates that normal water pressure in the distribution system should be approximately 60 to 80 psi and not less than 35 psi while maintaining a minimum pressure of 20 psi under all conditions of flow. The Town of DeWitt attempts to operate and maintain the system within these parameters as much as possible; however, due to the significantly varying topography in Central New York it is not possible to do so in all areas of the system. In areas that the pressures exceed 80 psi, the New York State Uniform Building Code requires that homes have pressure reducing valves (PRVs). Customers are responsible for installing the PRVs, and to periodically check/maintain this device; failure to do so may result in water damage and/or damaged water fixtures. When required for meter installation, the PRVs are to be installed either in a meter pit or within the house just before the meter. Customers should check the requirements within their municipality, but some require that a licensed plumber complete the installation.

## **SWAP Summary from OCWA:**

The NYS DOH has evaluated OCWA's susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only

estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for OCWA. OCWA provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

**Otisco Lake Source (water produced by OCWA):**

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for OCWA's Otisco Lake source of drinking water. The amount of row crops in the assessment area results in a medium susceptibility to pesticides. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: mines. While lakes are not generally considered to have a high natural sensitivity to phosphorus in SWAP, this lake already shows algae problems. Therefore, additional phosphorus contribution would likely result in further water quality degradation.

**Lake Ontario Source (water purchased from Metropolitan Water Board):**

The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated

with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels- intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The summary below is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this PWS intake.

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for pesticides contamination. Non-sanitary wastes may increase contamination potential. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: mines

### **Skaneateles Lake Source (water purchased from the City of Syracuse)**

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There is no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Does my water contain Fluoride?**

Yes the water the Town of DeWitt receives from OCWA is fluoridated to a concentration of about 0.7 mg/1.

OCWA is required to fluoridate by the New York State Department of Health.

### **What is the pH of my water?**

The water the Town of DeWitt receives from OCWA and the City of Syracuse has a pH range of 7.2 to 8.5, slightly basic. Alkalinity varies by source ranging from 85 mg/l to 150 mg/l (CaCO<sub>3</sub>)

### **Is my water Hard or Soft?**

The hardness of the water the Town of DeWitt receives ranges from 100 to 190 ppm. That is equal to about 6 to 11 grains per gallon. It is considered moderately hard. Hardness is a measurement of calcium carbonate in the water and is not a health concern.

### **Will having a water softener installed improve the water quality in my home?**

No, softening does not improve the sanitary quality of water. Softeners mostly remove calcium carbonate. They will stop 'spotting' or 'scaling' which may occur on certain surfaces, and under certain conditions, when water puddles or droplets are allowed to evaporate. Water softeners may increase water usage because it takes more soft water to rinse away soap. It is ultimately a matter of personal preference.

### **What can I do about dirty or rusty water?**

Water that is dirty or rusty can be caused by changes in flow inside the pipes. Usually, this is due to a sudden increase in flow, but sometimes, also by a change of direction. Leaks, hydrant usage or, changes in valve positioning can rattle things up and cause these problems. If the problem doesn't clear up in a short period of time call us and we will try to help. Town of DeWitt Water Department will investigate and correct the cause of the problem and flush its piping if necessary. You may then be instructed to flush the piping in your own home. The water should clear up after running it a bit.

## **What about Taste or Odor Problems?**

Algae most commonly cause tastes and odors, which are; earthy, musty, grassy, or fishy. At the Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario plants water is filtered through granular activated carbon. At times, powdered activated carbon can also be added to adsorb the offensive tastes and odors and then the carbon and the algae both are filtered out. Algae blooms are common in the warm and sunny months and the carbon dosage is always being monitored and adjusted. Occasionally, some tastes and odors do get through. Customer complaints about taste and odor are taken very serious. Tastes and odors originating with algae have no adverse health effects.

## **What about chlorine taste and odor?**

Chlorine dissipates as it travels through a pipeline. In order to ensure that customers living far from the treatment plant get water that is adequately disinfected, the dosage of chlorine received by customers living close to the plant is higher. OCWA tries to accommodate everyone, but in the case of a person very sensitive to chlorine living very close to the plant, this may not be possible. Chlorine can be removed simply by letting a pitcher of water stand overnight in the refrigerator or by running water through an activated carbon filter. Activated carbon filters, if used, need to be replaced regularly as old filters may promote bacterial growth.

## **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Drinking Water**

In 2008 the Associated Press released a three-piece story on pharmaceuticals and personal care products in drinking water sources. While the Onondaga County Water Authority was not one of the systems covered by the story, the article did stir interest of the Boards and Management of both OCWA and the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB). Accordingly, starting in 2008 the Authority implemented an annual testing program to learn more about potential pharmaceutical and personal care product contaminants that might be found in the Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario water supplies.

While none of us want to find any contaminants in our drinking water, as zero is the desirable level, it is important to begin the process of gathering occurrence data to allow for researchers to target the most commonly found contaminants. As such the Authority intends to continue to collect data related to pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water and will also continue its process of sharing the data with both the researchers and OCWA's consumers.

The 2008 round of samples involved testing for 34 potential contaminants, and with the exception of two items, the results were found to be non-detectable. From 2009 on, based on the recommendation of researchers studying the occurrence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products, the testing list has been expanded. Presently 98 potential contaminants are tested for. From 2009 and 2014 positive results were obtained for between 8 and 17 of the contaminants. In 2015 there were 10 potential contaminants found.

To learn more about the test results and related information for 2015 you are encouraged to visit the OCWA web site ([www.ocwa.org](http://www.ocwa.org)), any one that has questions about results, or any of the other water quality reports posted on the Authority web site are encouraged to contact OCWA's Water Quality Manager, Bob Rusyn, Bob can be reached at 315-455-7061, extension 3344.

### **General Information related to Pharmaceuticals and Other Emerging Contaminants**

Pharmaceuticals and personal care products, known in the water industry as PPCPs, are a group of compounds consisting of human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as fragrances, lotions, sunscreens and housecleaning products.

These compounds have been detected in trace amounts in surface water, drinking water and wastewater effluent sampling because water professionals have the technology today to detect more substances, at lower levels, than ever before.

Many PPCP compounds are being found at extremely low levels, typically single digit parts per trillion (ppt). Drinking water standards are typically set in the parts per-billion range, which is 1,000 times higher. The fact that the substance is detectable in drinking water does not mean the substance is harmful to humans. To date, research throughout the world has not demonstrated an impact on human health from trace amounts of PPCPs found in drinking water.

The water community is committed to protecting the public health. Water professionals are examining the occurrence of PPCPs in drinking-water supplies and the effectiveness of current treatment techniques on removal, and are paying close attention to health-effects research in this area, including research being conducted by the Water Research Foundation.

In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains an active program called the Contaminant Candidate List to identify contaminants in public drinking water that warrant detailed study. While the 2009 list does not currently include any PPCPs, EPA is considering testing for PPCP compounds in the very near future.

**Safer medication disposal:** To help safeguard water quality, discard your unwanted or expired medications in the trash, rather than dumping them down the sink or toilet. Keep prescriptions in their original container, remove or black out personal information on labels, then hide them in an empty, sealable container before placing in your garbage bag. For detailed tips on responsible medication disposal and protecting our water supply visit [www.PainInTheDrain.com](http://www.PainInTheDrain.com) and then see the Rx Disposal section.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, your drinking water is routinely tested for numerous contaminants. The Town of DeWitt tests include: total coliform, lead and copper. Other tests performed by our suppliers include turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. A complete list of all contaminants is on file at the Town of DeWitt Water Department. The lists are supplied to us from the City of Syracuse and the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) the providers of our water

supply. The State allows testing for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

## **Lead in Drinking Water**

**“If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Onondaga County Water Authority 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”**

## **Additional Facts on Lead**

Lead is a naturally-occurring metal that, for most of the 20th century, was used regularly as a component of paint, piping (including water service lines), solder, brass, and until the 1980s, as a gasoline additive. We no longer use lead in many of these products, but older products – such as paints and plumbing fixtures in older houses – that contain lead remain. EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that lead paint (and the contaminated dust and soil it generates) is the leading source of lead exposure in older housing.



Lead	No	Jun-14	1.87 (ND – 20)	3.6	ug/L	0	AL = 15*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits;
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\*AL (Action Level) Only 10% of samples can exceed this limit.

### About Lead and Copper:

In order to deter the leaching of lead and/ or copper from our customers' pipes, The Town of DeWitt has sampled with OCWA who has been mandated to implement corrosion control. Lead & Copper Sampling is required every 3 years. Dewitt with OCWA will sample again in 2017.

The method of corrosion control used on waters originating from Otisco and Skaneateles lakes is the addition of Orthophosphate. The adjustment of pH is the method used for Ontario water. DeWitt's latest sampling period was in June of 2014 when OCWA sampled and tested customers' taps to make sure the corrosion controls were effective.

### 90th Percentile Values for LEAD & COPPER:

The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>TH</sup> percentile. The 90<sup>TH</sup> percentile value is the concentration that 90% of the taps sampled were at or below. Since the Action Level for Lead is 15 ug/L, 90% of the taps tested had to be at or below this value. As you can see from the above chart 90% of the taps tested were at or below 3.6 ug/L in June of 2014. The Action Level for Copper is 1.3 mg/L. The observed 90th percentile for Copper was 0.16 mg/L. Of the 123 samples that OCWA tested in June of 2014, Only one sample exceeded the action level for lead. No sample exceeded the action level for copper. The testing showed that our methods of corrosion control are working

## Disinfectant & Disinfection By-products Found in the DeWitt WDs' Distribution Systems

Table of Detected Contaminants- Town of Dewitt							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contaminant

Chlorine Residual	No	Bi-Weekly	0.37 (0.09-0.78)	mg/L	N/A	4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (Dewitt North)***	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2015	46.5** (19-58)	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHMs form when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (Dewitt North)****	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2015	15.75** (9-22)	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (Dewitt South)***	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2015	54.5** (28-55)	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHMs form when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (Dewitt South)****	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2015	23.5** (5.8-26)	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Disinfection by-products;** during disinfection, certain by-products form as a result of chlorine reacting with naturally occurring organic matter. Disinfection by-products are kept low. Trihalomethanes (THM's) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA's) are classes of chemicals that the Town of DeWitt is required to monitor for in its distribution system.

\*\* The reported "Level Found" for Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids is the highest recorded quarterly running annual average among all of OCWA's Disinfection By- product sampling locations.

\*\*\* See 'Terms & Abbreviations' for the listing of Trihalomethanes contaminants

\*\*\*\* See 'Terms & Abbreviations' for the list of Haloacetic acids contaminants

### **Bacteria Found in the DeWitt WDs' Distribution Systems**

Contaminant	Sample Source	Violation Yes / No	Date(s) of Sampling in 2015	Month with Highest % positive samples	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
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Total Coliform Bacteria*	Dewitt Distribution System	No	33 per month	N/A	N/A	0	> 5 % Positive samples in any month	Naturally present in the environment
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\* Whenever a positive sample for Total Coliform is found, the sample is further tested for the presence of E.coli. Plus 4 additional check samples are taken. No Samples were found to be E.coli positive in 2015.

The Town of DeWitt regularly samples about 33 sites per month located throughout our distribution system.

We test these sites for both bacteria and disinfectant residual to make sure that our water is of a safe and sanitary quality

### **Cryptosporidium and Giardia:**

New York State law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens are of concern because they are found in surface water and ground water under the influence of surface water throughout the United States. Filtration and disinfection are the best methods for use against them, but 100% removal or inactivation cannot be guaranteed. Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis are intestinal illnesses caused by these microscopic parasites. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and cramps. Most healthy people can overcome the disease within a few weeks.

In 2015, the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia was tested for in Otisco, Ontario, and Skaneateles lakes as part of the routine plans of OCWA, MWB, and the City of Syracuse Water Department. Both the raw lake waters and the treated waters were tested. Additionally, OCWA also tested its recycled wash water, which is water that is reclaimed after filter backwashing and returned to the treatment plant influent stream for retreatment.

OCWA took a total of 36 Cryptosporidium and Giardia samples in 2015 representing water originating from Otisco Lake. Monthly samples were taken from the raw (untreated) water and the Finished (treated) water. The Recycled water was also sampled monthly. None of the monthly samples of raw water, finished water, or Recycle water originating from Otisco Lake had any Cryptosporidium or Giardia detected.

MWB took a total of 9 Cryptosporidium and Giardia samples in 2015 representing water originating from Lake Ontario. Raw water samples were taken monthly April through December. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in any of MWB's raw water samples.

The City of Syracuse Water Dept. took a total of 24 Cryptosporidium and Giardia samples in 2015 representing water originating from Skaneateles Lake. Two Raw water samples (one from each intake) were sampled monthly. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in any of the City of Syracuse's raw water samples.

During 2015, No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was found in any water samples originating from Otisco Lake, Lake Ontario, or Skaneateles Lake.

**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).**

Individuals who think they may have Cryptosporidiosis or Giardiasis should contact their health care provider immediately. For additional information on Cryptosporidiosis or Giardiasis you may contact the Onondaga

County Health Department, in writing at 421 Montgomery St., 12th Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202 or by calling 435-6600.

Bottled water may be a viable alternative, however the same degree of caution applied to your tap water should be used in selecting a bottled water supplier. To that end, a list of certified bottled waters for sale in New York (along with their sources) can be obtained from the New York State Department of Health by calling 1-800-458-1158.

The EPA's Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) established water treatment standards specifically designed to ensure the removal or deactivation of Giardia and other microbial contaminants. The EPA is currently working on enhancing these standards to further ensure protection against exposure to Cryptosporidium from drinking water. The OCWA and MWB treatment plants are in full compliance with all current operational, monitoring, and reporting requirements. OCWA's internal performance standards are actually tougher than the law currently requires.

For example, the SWTR requires a treatment plant's finished water turbidity (a measure of clarity used to check filtration particulate removal) to be less than 0.30 NTUs 95% of the time. For 2015 the OCWA filtration plant finished water turbidity was less than 0.08 NTUs 95% of the time based on continuous four-hour sampling intervals. MWB's filtration plant finished water turbidity, for 2015, averaged less than 0.042 NTUs 95% of the time, again based on four-hour sampling intervals. Cryptosporidium regulations contain improved filtration performance requirements to ensure removal of any protozoans that may be present. Part of the enhanced filtration requirements involved lowering the turbidity criteria from the 0.50 to the 0.30 NTU range. Both the OCWA and MWB treatment plants are doing better than the regulated levels.

### **Chromium 6 Health Information:**

**Chromium is a common element in rocks, soil, water, plants, and animals. It gets into surface or groundwater after dissolving from rocks and soil. Chromium is used to manufacture steel, to electroplate metal, and in the textile, tanning, and leather industries. Contamination of drinking water may occur if chromium gets into surface or groundwater after improper waste disposal in landfills or by industrial or manufacturing facilities using chromium.**

**Chromium is found in the environment in two principal forms: chromium (III) and chromium (VI). Chromium (III) compounds are the most common chromium compounds in the environment. Chromium (VI) compounds are less common in the environment and are typically associated with an industrial source. Depending on the conditions, each form of chromium can be converted into the other form in the environment.**

Chromium (VI) is the more toxic form of chromium. There is strong evidence from human studies in many countries that occupational exposures to chromium (VI) in air can cause lung cancer. There is weaker evidence from studies in China that long-term exposure to chromium (VI) in drinking water can cause stomach cancer. Chromium (VI) causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed almost daily to high levels in air (lung cancer) or drinking water (mouth and intestinal cancers) over their lifetimes. Adverse gastrointestinal-tract effects (oral ulcers, stomach or abdominal pain, diarrhea) other than cancer also are associated with long-term human exposures to oral doses of chromium (VI). In laboratory animals, repeated exposures to high oral doses of Chromium (VI) has caused blood, liver, and kidney damage in adult animals, and can adversely affect the developing fetus and the male and female reproductive organs. Chemicals that cause cancer or other adverse health effects in people or laboratory animals exposed to high levels also may increase the risk of such effects in people exposed to lower levels over long periods. Prepared by New York State Department of Health-Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment, 3/14/11

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

**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)**

## Table of Detected Contaminants

### Turbidity at Entry Point

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes / No	Sampling frequency (highest reading)	Average Level found (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Lowest % of Monthly tests meeting limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	Otisco	No	Every 4 hrs (May-15)	0.06 (0.03-0.10)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	Soil run off
	Ontario	No	Every 4 hrs (Oct-15)	0.04 (0.02-0.07)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	
	Skaneateles	Yes*	Every 4 hrs (Dec-15)	0.43 (0.9-42.72)	NTU	N/A	MCL = 5.0 NTU for systems that don't filter	N/A	

#### About Turbidity:

Customers of the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) get their water from one of three sources. Water may originate from Otisco Lake, which is treated by OCWA itself, Lake Ontario which is treated by the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB) and sold to OCWA, or Skaneateles Lake which is treated by the Syracuse Water Department and also sold to OCWA. Customers may also get a mixture of these waters.

Water purveyors are required to measure **turbidity** as water leaves their plants. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Treatment plants that filter also measure it because it is a good indicator of filter efficiency. Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario waters are filtered. Skaneateles Lake water is not.

**\*Treatment Technique Violation for Turbidity:**

On December 29, 2015, because of high southerly winds, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Turbidity levels reached 35.72 NTU on this date. Notification of this event was made to the public and to the Onondaga County Health Department.

**\*MCL Violation for Turbidity:**

On October 28 & 29, 2015, because of high winds, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Turbidity levels reached 17.40 NTU on Oct 28th. A reading of 8.38 NTU was recorded on October 29th. Since this event occurred over two days it is an MCL Violation. Notification of this event was made to the public and to the Onondaga County Health Department.

**Health Effects of Turbidity:**

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, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Please pay special attention to the additional statements in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.

## Organic Contaminants Found at Entry Point

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes / No	Date(s) of Sampling	Average Level found (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)	Otisco	No	Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct 2015	0.75 (0.66 - 0.86)	ug/l	0	6	Used plastic products such as polyvinyl chloride, plastic toys, vinyl upholstery, adhesives and coatings. Compound likely to be released to the environment during production and waste disposal of these products. Also used in inks, pesticides, cosmetics, and vacuum pump oil.
Dissolved Organic Carbon	Otisco	No	Monthly 2015	2.0 (1.7 -2.5)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
	Ontario	No	Monthly 2015	1.6 (1.3 -2.0)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	
Total Organic Carbon	Otisco	No	Monthly 2015	2.0 (1.5 - 2.6)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
	Ontario	No	Monthly 2015	1.6 (1.3 -1.9)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	
Total Trihalo Methanes	Ontario	No	Monthly 2014	12.6 (8.5 - 18)	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination. TTHM's form when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic acids	Ontario	No	Jul & Aug 2013	6.35 (6.3 - 6.4)	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Inorganic Contaminants Found at Entry Point**

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes / No	Date(s) of Sampling	Average Level found (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Aluminum	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	0.07 (.03 - .12)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual Aluminum may be from a chemical used in the treatment process.
	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	0.037 (.034 - .040)	mg/l	2	2	
Barium	Ontario	No	Jul-15	0.024	mg/l	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	0.025	mg/l	2	2	
Calcium	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	44.5 (40 - 49)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
	Ontario	No	Jul-13	33.5	mg/l	N/A	N/A	
	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	48 (44 - 52)	mg/l	N/A	250	
Chloride	Ontario	No	Jul-15	26	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring; Road salts.
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	20	mg/l	N/A	250	
Chlorite	Otisco	No	Daily	0.25 (nd - 0.43)	mg/l	N/A	1	By-product of drinking water disinfection at plants using Chlorine Dioxide
Chlorine Dioxide Residual (1)	Otisco	No	Daily	70 (nd - 390)	ug/l	N/A	800 (MRDL)	By-product of drinking water disinfection at plants using Chlorine Dioxide
	Otisco	No	Every 4 hrs	1.12 (.72 - 1.67)	mg/l	N/A	4 (MRDL)	
Chlorine Residual (Free)	Ontario	No	Every 4 hrs	0.89 (.64 - 1.25)	mg/l	N/A	4 (MRDL)	Added to water to kill harmful bacteria and to prevent the re-growth of bacteria.
	Skaneateles	No	Every 4 hrs	1.35 (.61 - 2.38)	mg/l	N/A	4 (MRDL)	

**Inorganic Contaminants Found at Entry Point**

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes / No	Date(s) of Sampling	Average Level found (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chromium	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	2.3 (1.4 -3.1)	ug/l	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Ontario	No	Feb, May Jul, Aug Nov, 2015	1.0 (ND - 1.6)	ug/l	100	100	
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	1.6	ug/l	100	100	
Chromium 6 (2)	Ontario	No	Feb, May, Aug Nov, 2015	0.09 (0.07 - 0.10)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Industrial sources.
Copper	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	0.0077 (.0023-.013)	mg/l	N/A	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (3)	Otisco	No	Daily	0.76 (.19 - .92)	mg/l	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer.
	Ontario	No	Daily	0.78 (.56 - .96)	mg/l	N/A	2.2	
	Skaneateles	No	Daily	0.73 (.17 - 1.01)	mg/l	N/A	2.2	
Magnesium	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	12 (11 - 13)	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
	Ontario	No	Jul-13	8.97	mg/l	N/A	N/A	

## Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes / No	Date(s) of Sampling	Average Level found (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nickel	Otisco	No	Mar-145 Sep-15	0.98 (0.75 - 1.20)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Ontario	No	Jul-15	1.4	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	1.1	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
Nitrate	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	0.51 (0.40 - 0.61)	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
	Ontario	No	Jul-15	0.39	mg/l	10	10	
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	0.50	mg/l	10	10	
Sodium (4)	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	28.5 (26 - 31)	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects*	Naturally occurring; Road salts; water softeners; animal wastes.
	Ontario	No	Jul-15	17	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects*	
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	10	mg/l	N/A	See Health Effects*	
Sulfate	Otisco	No	Mar-15 Sep-15	13 (13 - 13)	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
	Ontario	No	Jul-15	24	mg/l	N/A	250	
	Skaneateles	No	May-15	14	mg/l	N/A	250	

**(1) Chlorine Dioxide and Chlorite** were tested for daily for 2017 days in 2015. For 217 days in 2015 OCWA was adding Chlorine Dioxide as a pre oxidant in order to control Zebra Mussels at the intake, provide adequate disinfection, and control the formation of undesirable disinfection by-products such as Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids. OCWA intends to add Chlorine Dioxide again during warm water conditions in 2016.

**(2) Chromium 6;**

Although it is not regulated MWB took samples from the entrance point of their distribution systems in 2015 and had them tested for Chromium 6 at low detection levels. The results are shown in the table above. OCWA took samples representative of all 3 of the source waters. Otisco, Ontario, and Skaneateles Lakes and had them tested for Chromium 6. This was done as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Rule.

**(3) Information on Fluoride Addition;**

OCWA is one of many drinking water systems that provide drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Center for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a target dose. Until June of 2015 the optimal target dose was determined to be between 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L. During this per monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 93.5% of the time for Otisco Lake water, 100% of the time for Lake Ontario water, and 91% of the time for Skaneateles Lake water. In June of 2015 on the optimal target dose of fluoride was changed to 0.6 to 0.8 mg/L. Since then monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 98.6% of the time for Otisco Lake water, 99.7% of the time for Lake Ontario water, and 85% of the time for Skaneateles Lake water. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the NYS Health Department requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis.

**(4) Health Effects of Sodium;**

There is no MCL for Sodium. However, water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted diet.



## Unregulated Contaminants Detected During Testing

Contaminant	Water Source	Date of Sampling	Level found	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorate	Otisco entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	102 (43-210)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct; and used in production of chlorine dioxide
	Ontario entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	183 (33-94)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	78 (60-99)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Otisco Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	133 (39-300)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Ontario Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	57 (53-58)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	72 (53-95)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
Chromium-6	Ontario entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.03 (nd-0.03)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; chromium-3 or -6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation
	Skaneateles entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.04 (0.03-0.05)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Otisco Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.06 (nd-0.07)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Ontario Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.10 (0.09-0.12)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.03 (0.04-0.05)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	

**OCWA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) Sampling**

**Unregulated Contaminants Detected During Testing**

Contaminant	Water Source	Date of Sampling	Level found	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Molybdenum	Ontario entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	1.1 (1.1-1.2)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide used as a chemical reagent
	Ontario Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	1.2 (1.1-1.2)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
Strontium	Otisco entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	123 (120-130)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions
	Ontario entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	167 (160-170)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles entry point	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	82 (79-85)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Otisco Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	127 (120-130)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Ontario Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	183 (180-190)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
	Skaneateles Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	85 (81-88)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
Vanadium	Otisco Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.2 (nd-0.3)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst
	Ontario Max. Res.	Jan, Apr, Jul 2015	0.2 (nd-0.3)	ug/l	N/A	N/A	

## **Unregulated Contaminants Not Detected During Testing**

In 2015, the Onondaga County Water Authority was required to collect and analyze drinking water samples for unregulated contaminants. The following contaminants were tested for but not detected; 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,3-butadiene, chloromethane (methyl chloride), 1,1-dichloroethane, bromomethane (methyl bromide), chloromethane (methyl chloride), 1,1-dichloroethane, chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22), bromochloromethane (halon 1011), 1,4-dioxane, cobalt, perfluorooctanesulfonate acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), 4-androstene-3, 17-dione, 17- $\beta$ -estradiol, 17- $\alpha$ -ethynylestradiol (ethinyl estradiol), 16- $\alpha$ -hydroxyestradiol (estriol), equilin, estrone, testosterone.

# Contaminants Tested for but Not Detected

(Non-Detects Arranged By Source)

<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b> (Otisco, Ontario, Skaneateles)	<b>Principal Organic Contaminants</b> (Otisco, Ontario, Skaneateles)	<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> (Otisco, Ontario, Skaneateles)
Alachlor Aldicarb Aldicarb sulfone Aldicarb sulfoxide Aldrin Atrazine Benzo(a)pyrene Butachlor Carbaryl Carbofuran Chlorodane Dalapon Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate Dibromochloropropane Dicamba Dieldrin Dinoseb Endrin Ethylene Dibromide Glyphosate Heptachlor Heptachlor epoxide Hexachlorobenzene Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Lindane Methomyl Methoxychlor Metolachlor Metribuzan Oxamyl vydate Pentachlorophenol Pichloram Polychlorinatedbiphenyls Propachlor Simazine Toxaphene 2,4 -D 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) 3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Benzene Bromobenzene Bromochloromethane Bromomethane N-Butylbenzene sec-Butylbenzene tert-Butylbenzene Carbon Tetrachloride Chlorobenzene Chloroethane Chloromethane 2-Chlorotoluene 4-Chlorotoluene Dibromomethane 1,2-Dichlorobenzene 1,3-Dichlorobenzene 1,4-Dichlorobenzene Dichlorofluoromethane 1,1-Dichloroethane 1,2-Dichloroethane 1,1-Dichloroethene cis-1,2-Dichloroethene trans-1,2-Dichloroethene 1,2-Dichloropropane 1,3-Dichloropropane 2,2-Dichloropropane 1,1-Dichloropropene cis-1,3-Dichloropropene trans-1,3-Dichloropropene Ethylbenzene Hexachlorobutadiene Isopropylbenzene p-Isopropyltoluene Methylene Chloride MTBE n-Propylbenzene Styrene 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane Tetrachloroethene 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene 1,1,1,-Trichloroethane 1,1,2,-Trichloroethane Trichloroethene Trichlorofluoromethane 1,2,3,-Trichloropropane 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Antimony Arsenic Beryllium Cadmium Cyanide Iron Manganese Mercury Nitrite Selenium Silver Thallium Zinc  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> (Otisco)</p> Chromium VI Lead  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical Characteristics</b> (Otisco, Ontario, Skaneateles)</p> Color Odor  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Radiological Contaminants</b> (Ontario)</p> Gross Alpha Gross Beta Cesium-137 Radium 226 Radium 228 Total Uranium

<p><b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b> (Otisco, Ontario)</p> <p>Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate Diquat Endopthall 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)</p>	<p>Vinyl Chloride o-Xylene m-Xylene p-Xylene</p>	
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The frequency that various contaminants are tested for is regulated by the State and can vary from source to source. The State allows for some contaminants to be tested for less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. Some contaminants are monitored at the various sources more often than required.

## Terms & Abbreviations

**Action Level (AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Chlorine Residual** – the amount of chlorine in water available for disinfection.

**Disinfection By-product (DBP)** – Chemical compounds that result from the addition of chlorine to water containing organic substances.

**HAA (Haloacetic acids) – the combined concentration of the following five contaminants;** Dibromo-, Dichloro-, Monobromo-, Monochloro-, and Trichloro -, acetic acids.

**Inorganic Contaminant** – chemical substances of mineral origin, such as iron or manganese.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible.

**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.

**Mg/L** – (milligrams per liter) corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – **ppm**).

**Microbiological Contaminant** – Very small organisms, such as bacteria.

**N/A** – not applicable.

**ND** – not detected at testing limits.

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - a measurement of particles in water.

**Organics** – substances containing the element carbon. These can be naturally occurring or manmade, and can include pesticides, solvents, and by-products of disinfection.

**PCi/L** – picocuries per liter; units of concentration of radioactive substances.

**ppb** – parts per billion; a concentration equal to 1 microgram of a substance in one liter of water, **ug/L**.

**ppm** – parts per million; a concentration equal to 1 milligram of a substance in one liter of water, **mg/L**.

**Radionuclides** – Contaminants giving off [ionizing](#) radiation.

**TTHM- (Total Trihalomethanes)** – the combined concentration of the following four contaminants; Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Chloroform, and Dibromochloromethane.

**TON (Threshold Odor Number)** – The greatest number dilutions of a sample with “odor-free” water yielding a definitely perceptible odor.

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

**ug/L** – (micrograms per liter) corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – **ppb**).

**W (waiver) – variances and exemptions** – state permission not to meet an MCL, treatment technique, or monitoring requirement under certain conditions.

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

On October 28 & 29, 2015, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) due to high winds. Turbidity levels reached 17.40 NTUs on Oct 28th. A reading of 8.38 NTU was recorded on October 29th. Since this event occurred over two days, it is a MCL Violation. Notification of this event was made to the public and to the Onondaga County Health Department.

The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. On December 29, 2015, due to high southerly winds the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Turbidity levels reached 35.72 NTUs on this date. Notification of this event was made to the public and to the Onondaga County Health Department.

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, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statements in this document regarding Cryptosporidium.

We have learned through our testing that some other contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

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

During 2015, the Town of Dewitt was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family/business with quality drinking water this year. In Central New York, we are fortunate to have an abundant supply of good quality drinking water. We ask that all our customers help protect and conserve our valuable water resources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. The Onondaga County Water Authority supplied all water quality monitoring data and tables for 2015. If you have any questions, or concerns please call our office at 446-3734 x 4, or visit the Town's web site, as you can reach us by E-mail.