

**Kingston Water Department**  
**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 5503374)**



**DEAR CUSTOMER:**

The Kingston Water Department is pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during 2009. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and your awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 different contaminants and are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

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

We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, Water Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the offices of the Kingston Water Department, 111 Jansen Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401. The meetings begin at 4:00 PM and the public is welcome. If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please contact Judith Hansen, Superintendent at 845-331-0175, fax 845-340-9209, or e-mail at [water@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:water@kingston-ny.gov). You may also mail inquiries to the Kingston Water Department at PO Box 1537, Kingston, NY 12402.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in surface water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants, including phosphorus; 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.

Kingston gets its water from the Mink Hollow stream and is piped from there into our Cooper Lake Reservoir. This watershed is sparsely populated and largely undeveloped. Approximately half of the watershed is under the jurisdiction of the Catskill State Park. Significant portions of this watershed are owned and managed by the Kingston Water Department which allows us to exert direct control over the quality and quantity of this resource. During 2009, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The NYS DOH conducted source water assessments for Cooper Lake and our emergency sources (Reservoirs 1, 2, and 4). These assessments evaluate the possible and actual threats to our sources and, although it includes a susceptibility rating which estimates the risk posed by each potential source of contamination, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. The NYS DOH has found that Cooper Lake contains no discrete potential contaminant sources, and the land cover contaminant prevalence ratings are low. The NYS DOH has not conducted a source water assessment for the Mink Hollow stream which is our principal source of supply. Those assessments that have been completed are available for inspection by calling the Water Department at 331-0175.

The treatment technologies that are employed at our Edmund T. Cloonan Water Treatment Plant include chlorine disinfection, direct filtration with alum coagulation, and corrosion control via the addition of lime. The Plant, built in 1899 and periodically updated, has a nominal capacity of 8 MGD. Although various improvements have been made to this facility, it runs essentially as it was designed and still provides for the needs of our customers.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves approximately 23,456 people through 7,800 service connections. The total water produced in 2009 was 1,454,729,000 gallons. The total amount of water delivered to the distribution system was 1,340,829,000 gallons and the average flow into the system was 3.7 million gallons per day. The single highest flow was 4.375 million gallons and occurred on January 20th. The amount of water registering through our customer meters was approximately 845 million gallons. Another 325 million gallons was estimated to be used to flush mains, fight fires, and maintain sewers and streets. In addition, some of that water was lost through known meter inaccuracies and water main breaks. The balance is assumed to be lost to leakage. In 2009, water customers

were charged according to the following rate schedule:

0 to 4 units	\$33.33
Next 16 units	\$2.35 per
Next 20 units	\$2.14 per
Next 60 units	\$1.91 per
Next 900 units	\$1.49 per
> 1000 units	\$1.10 per

Meters record usage in cubic feet and a unit of water is equal to 100 cubic feet (748 gallons). All revenues from water rents remain within the Department to fund our operation. In 2009, we operated on an annual budget of \$3.44 million and the average rate per unit of water delivered was \$2.82. While a sewer usage fee of \$4.28 per unit of water consumed was collected with the water bills, the Water Department does not set or determine the sewer rate or administer the funds. The Department merely acts as collection agent for the sewer fund and turns over all moneys to the Sewer Department weekly.

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

As New York State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water in 2009.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Ulster County Health Department at 845-340-3010.

Table of Detected Contaminants								
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Result		Unit	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloride	No	02/10/09	4		mg/L		MCL =250	
Sodium	No	02/10/09	4		mg/L		N/A	
Lead <sup>1</sup>	No	9/2008	5		ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper <sup>1</sup>	No	9/2008	0.08		mg/L	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Sulfate	No	2/10/09	7		mg/L		MCL = 250	Naturally occurring
THM's <sup>2</sup> Trihalomethanes	No	2009	Stage 1 28 23-38	Stage 2 38 20-46	ug/L		MCL =80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5's <sup>2</sup> Haloacetic Acids	No	2009	Stage 1 17 10-25	Stage 2 20 10-24	ug/L		MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	05/22/09	0.54		NTU	N/A	TT = <1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	8/2009	0.21		NTU	N/A	TT = <1 NTU	
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	2009	99.82%		NTU	N/A	TT= 95% of samples <0.3 NTU	

**Notes:**

- 1 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 31 samples that were collected in 2008.
- 2 – This level represents the annual average calculated from data collected. Stage 1 samples were collected quarterly in 2009 and Stage 2 samples were collected every 60 days beginning 11/08 and ending 9/09
- 3 – We test turbidity levels because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for 2009 occurred on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (0.54). State regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU and that all turbidities are below 1 NTU. During 2009, no individual turbidity exceeded the 1 NTU

level and only 4 samples out of 2,190 exceeded 0.3 NTU. The highest monthly average was 0.21 NTU and occurred in August

#### **Definitions:**

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant that is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. The Kingston Water Department disinfects with chlorine. The MRDL for chlorine is 4.0 mg/L. Kingston has never exceeded the MRDL and the annual average for 2009 was 0.34 mg/L

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. The MRDLG for chlorine is 4 mg/L.

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

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

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

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

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2009. We have learned through our testing that some substances have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected well below the level allowed by New York State.

#### **OPERATIONS**

The Water Department consists of a staff of 25 fulltime employees whose responsibilities include the maintenance of approximately 100 miles of water mains, treatment and distribution of over 3.7 million gallons of water daily, and performance of business operations that accounts for an annual 3.44 million dollar budget. Additionally, the Water Department Laboratory provides bacteriological monitoring of our water supply and makes this service available to others for a reasonable fee. The Water Department can be contacted 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by customers encountering water problems or emergencies @ 331-0205. The Business Office and Maintenance Shop are located at 111 Jansen Ave., Kingston, NY, (845)331-0175. Business Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm except in July and August, when hours of operation are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Payments for water bills can be mailed, paid in person at the Business Office, or deposited in a Night Drop Box located in the front of our Business Office.

Water bills are mailed out on a quarterly basis. Customers are assigned a particular zone designated by the location of their water account. To maintain a positive cash flow, mailing dates for Water Bills are staggered by zone. A mailing schedule may be requested from our Business Office by phone or by email at [water@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:water@kingston-ny.gov) Please supply a fax number, mailing address, or email address.

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

Although our drinking water met state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



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

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day, or 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 (30,000 gallons a year) from one of these invisible toilet leaks.

#### SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

During 2009, the Department began planning and designing improvements to both our Cooper Lake Reservoir and our treated water storage facility. The latter is mandated by new Federal and State regulatory requirements and, in March 2009, the Board of Water Commissioners entered into an Administrative Order with the Ulster County Health Department that stipulates that this facility will be completed, operational, and in full compliance with all regulatory requirements by September 30, 2011. This project is expected to cost \$3.5 million. In addition, the Department has a Capital Improvement Plan that calls for more than \$10 million in system improvements over the next five years. Through careful planning and sound fiscal management, we can guide the Department into the next century of operation. The challenges are many and the resources are limited, but the future of the City depends upon our success.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.