

KINGSTON WATER DEPARTMENT



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2011 (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 2011. 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 contaminants. We detected 9 of those contaminants, and only found 1 of those contaminants at a level higher than the State allows. As we told you at that time, our water temporarily exceeded a drinking water standard and we rectified the problem by flushing and adjusting our disinfectant residuals. 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. 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. During 2011, 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 by the Kingston Water Department include chlorine disinfection, direct filtration with alum coagulation, corrosion control via the addition of lime and ultraviolet disinfection. The treatment facilities have nominal capacities of 8 MGD.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 23,893 people through 7,900 service connections. The total water produced in 2011 was 1,592,511,000 gallons. The total amount of water delivered to the distribution system was 1,484,686,000 gallons and the average flow into the system was 4.1 million gallons per day. The single highest flow was 4.925 million gallons and occurred on November 7th. The amount of water registering through our customer meters was approximately 880 million gallons. The difference between the water entering the distribution system and the amount registering through our customer meters is 605 million gallons. Of that total, some 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 2011, water customers were charged according to the following rate schedule:

0 to 4 Units	\$34.99
Next 16 Units	\$2.47 per
Next 20 Units	\$2.24 per
Next 60 Units	\$2.01 per
Next 900 Units	\$1.56 per
> 1000 Units	\$1.15 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 2011, we operated on an annual budget of \$3.75 million and the average rate per unit of water delivered was \$2.99. While a sewer usage fee of \$4.99 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 more than 80 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 2011.

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	02/28/11	5	mg/L	NA	MCL =250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium	No	02/28/11	2.4	mg/L	NA	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Lead ¹	No	8/2011	6	ug/L	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper ¹	No	8/2011	0.05	mg/L	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Sulfate	No	02/28/11	6	mg/L	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring
THM's ² Trihalomethanes	No	2011	32.8 28.1 – 41.4	ug/L	N/A	MCL =80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5's ² Haloacetic Acids	No	2011	15.9 10.2 – 20.6	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity ³	No	06/13/2011	0.95	NTU	N/A	TT = <1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity ³	No	6/2011	0.23	NTU	N/A	TT = <1 NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	2011	99.13%	NTU	N/A	TT= 95% of samples <0.3 NTU	
Total Coliforms ⁴	Yes	09/2011	3 Positive Samples	N/A	0	MCL = > 2 positive samples when less than 40 samples collected	Naturally present in the environment.

Notes:

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 31 samples that were collected in 2011.

2 – This level represents the annual average and range calculated from data collected in 2011.

3 – We test turbidity levels because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement for 2011 occurred on June 13th (0.95). 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 2011, no individual turbidity exceeded the 1 NTU level and 19 samples out of 2,190 exceeded 0.3 NTU. The highest monthly average was 0.23 NTU and occurred in June.

4 – The department is required to collect 27 coliform monitoring samples each month. However, more than 27 monitoring samples per month are routinely collected. In months where less than 40 samples are collected, the MCL is exceeded if 2 samples are positive. In months when more than 40 samples are collected, the MCL is exceeded when more than 5% of the total samples collected are positive. In 2011 435 routine monitoring samples were collected and 5 of those were positive (1%). During the months of March and June, 1 out of less than 40 samples collected was positive. In September, 3 out of 36 samples were positive and an MCL violation occurred.

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 an MCL violation of the Total Coliform Rule in September 2011. During September, 3 of the 36 samples that were collected were positive for total coliform bacteria. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. The positive samples were collected on September 6th, 12th, and 15th. In months when less than 40 samples are collected, an MCL violation occurs when 2 samples indicate the presence of total coliform bacteria. After each positive sample, four additional samples were collected from the vicinity of each positive sample collection site and all of those samples were negative for total coliforms. The Department notified you of the problem in a direct mailing dated October 26, 2011. The problem was corrected by flushing and by closely monitoring and adjusting our disinfectant residuals. Total coliform bacteria were not detected in any subsequent sampling in 2011. It should be noted that *E. coli*, associated with human and animal fecal waste was **not** detected in any samples collected.

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 4.1 million gallons of water daily, and performance of business operations that accounts for an annual 3.75 million dollar budget. The Water Department can be contacted 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by customers encountering water problems or emergencies at (845)331-0205. In the event of an emergency or a service interruption involving the water supply, we urge you to sign up for direct notification via phone, email, or text at www.nyalert.gov. This is a free service provided by the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and will enable us to provide you with quick and efficient notification of any water related emergency impacting you or your family.

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, deposited in a Night Drop Box located in the front of our Business Office, or by signing up for automatic deduction by Electronic Funds Transfer payment option.

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. Please supply a fax number, mailing address, or email address.

DO I NEED TO TAKE 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).

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 2011, the Department continued working on improvements to our Cooper Lake Reservoir and completed a new UV disinfection facility at a cost of \$3.0 million. Construction on a new raw water Intake began in 2011 and is expected to be completed in early 2012 at a cost of approximately \$1.0 million. In addition, the Department has a Capital Improvement Plan that calls for more than \$12 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.