

For Year of 2010
Sterling Pines Community
974 Route 104A, Sterling, NY 13156
PWS #0519101
Annual Water Quality Report

This report includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are pleased to provide you with this information because we know that informed customers are our best customers. As always, our goal is to consistently provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Sterling Pines Community supplies drinking water to approximately 7 homes. The water supply consists of one well; located 1500 feet southeast of the community. The well relies on a ground water aquifer that is treated with chlorine injection prior to distribution. The drinking water at Sterling Pines Community met all federal and state requirements. Any questions or concerns about your drinking water, contact Charlie Hendricks, 11886 State Route 38, Cato, NY 13033, 315 480-9237 or the Cayuga County Health Department at 315 253-1405.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants and radioactive contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 1 drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state government) and animal pasture in relation to the well. In addition, the well draws from an unconfined aquifer with unknown hydraulic conductivity. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment is available for review by calling the Cayuga County Health Department at 253-1405.

Testing Results for 2010

As you review the results keep in mind that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPS's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

According to State regulations, Sterling Pines Community routinely monitors your drinking water for various contaminants. In 2010, your water was tested for Volatile Organic Contaminants, Synthetic Organic Contaminants, Nitrate and Coliform Bacteria. The contaminants detected in your drinking water are included in the following table. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore some of the date, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Contaminant	MCL	Units	MCLG	Water Result	Date Collected	Range of Detection	Violation?	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate	10	mg/l	10	.98	08/10	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	2	mg/l	2	0.53	3/10	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes	80	ug/l	N/A	8.8	8/10	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Haloacetic Acids	60	ug/l	N/A	12	9/10	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Copper ¹	1.3	mg/l	N/A	0.069	7/05	0.011-0.1	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Total Coliform	2 or more positive samples in 1 month	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Lead ²	15	ug/l	N/A	0.0001	7/05	<1	NO	From lead pipes, solder joints and plumbing fixtures.

- 1- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average of the highest and second highest values (0.069 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- 2- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, five samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the average of the highest and second highest values (0.0001 ug/l). The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Glossary of Key Terms

MCL – *Maximum Contaminant Level*

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as possible.

MCLG – *Maximum Contaminant Level Goal*

The level of a contaminate in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's 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)

ug/l – *Micrograms Per Liter*

Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion-ppb)

MRDL – *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level*

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG – *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal*

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

AL – *Action Level*

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Discussion of Testing Results

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead Levels

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Sterling Pines is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Conservation

Water conservation helps the environment by preserving this natural resource. You can conserve water by:

- Checking for and repairing leaks inside and out.
- Replacing older fixtures with water saving showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet dams or low flush toilets.