

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2007

Village of Orchard Park Water Department  
4295 South Buffalo Street (Administrative)  
100 West Highland Avenue (Dept. Of Public Works)  
Orchard Park, New York 14127

*Public Water Supply  
ID #1400537*

### Why?

To comply with State and County regulations, the Village of Orchard Park Water Department issues an annual report, describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. 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.

The Village of Orchard Park does not produce the water which you consume, but distributes water treated by the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA). The ECWA has reported that the ECWA's water system operated under "NO VARIANCE or EXEMPTION" from any federal or state regulatory requirements. The Village of Orchard Park performs no additional treatment of water. More information regarding ECWA can be found on their web site at [www.ecwa.org](http://www.ecwa.org).

The Village of Orchard Park's water system serves approximately 3,294 people (2000 Census) through 1,065 accounts. The Village of Orchard Park purchased 115,366 thousand gallons of treated water during 2007. Of the 115,366 thousand gallons purchased, the Village sold 101,061 thousand gallons at a rate of \$4.36 per 1,000 gallons. The remaining, unaccounted for, was water used during fire fighting, flushing or lost through water main breaks or leaks.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Andrew Slotman, Director of Public Works at 662-3866. If you notice any suspicious activity that would affect the water supply, call the police @ 911. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at 4295 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, NY.

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

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy
- Saving water reduces the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid use restrictions

You can conserve water and save yourself money by being conscious of the amount of water your household uses & look for ways to use less and conserve water:

- Use low flow shower heads and faucets
- Water your lawn sparingly, early morning or late evening (a layer of mulch in the flower beds and garden will help retain moisture)
- Don't cut the lawn too short; longer grass saves water
- Do only full loads of wash and dishes
- Repair all leaks in your plumbing system. (Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes; if it moved, you have a leak.)
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth

## **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, in some cases radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations 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.

Prior to distribution, water from either Lake Erie or the Niagara River is treated at one of two Erie County Water Authority's water treatment plants by the conventional filtration method as follows:

- Water flows by gravity through a large intake tunnel to the raw water buildings.
- Pumps draw the water through traveling screens to keep large objects such as driftwood and fish from entering the system.
- A chemical, polyaluminum chloride, is added to the water which causes suspended particles in the water to clump together forming floc.
- Floc particles then settle to the bottom of large sedimentation basins.
- The water is then filtered through layers of anthracite, sand and gravel to remove any remaining particles.
- Chlorine is added for disinfection to kill bacteria.
- Small amounts of fluoride are added to help prevent tooth decay.
- Caustic soda is added to stabilize the alkalinity of the water and prevent corrosion in home plumbing.
- Powdered activated carbon is added in the summer months to help remove unpleasant tastes & odors.
- Water is temporarily stored in clear wells or storage tanks before it is pumped to the public.

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

Monitoring of many of the contaminants is performed by the Erie County Water Authority. The Village of Orchard Park monitors for microbiological quality on a monthly basis and obtains tap samples for lead and copper analysis. We conducted asbestos testing in April 2006 and will not be required to do this again until 2015. During the last monitoring in 2005, analysis found that the Village of Orchard Park met the lead and copper standards. This testing is required again in 2008, and will be done from June thru October; results available in October. Three samples are collected monthly to test for Coliform. Independent, certified laboratories assure the accuracy of analytical results. Water produced by the ECWA and distributed by the Village of Orchard Park meets all Federal and New York State drinking water standards. A detailed listing of all contaminants, the number of samples analyzed, the frequency of sampling and the analytical results are also available in the Village Office. Information regarding the lead and copper monitoring within our service area can be obtained by contacting the Village of Orchard Park Department of Public Works (662-3866). Information on the 2007 analysis can be obtained on request from the Erie County Water Lab (716)826-6230 or on the internet [www.ecwa.org](http://www.ecwa.org) Additional information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791 or on the web at the EPA website [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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).

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