Town of Peru
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020
Peru Water District
3036 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972
(Public Water Supply ID#NY0900216)

Introduction

To comply with State regulations, Peru Water District, annually distributes a 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. Last year, we conducted tests for many contaminants required by NYS and the E.P.A. 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Courtney Tetrault, Water & Sewer Superintendent, 518-643-8125 or the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held every second and forth Monday of every month at 6:00 pm at the Peru Town Hall.

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 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 the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Town of Peru supplies three water districts and one out of district area with water from two sources. The primary source is Furnace Brook that fills the Town reservoir, which holds approximately 1.6 million gallons. The secondary source is the Little Au Sable River, which is held in reserve for an emergency pumping facility on River Road. Both of these areas are of good inorganic and physical qualities.

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 move can move to the source. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to customers is, or will be contaminated. See section "Are there contaminates in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants detected. The source water assessment provides resource managers with additional information for protecting source water in the future.

This assessment found an elevated 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 are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contamination sources. Finally, it should be noted that hydrologic characteristics (e.g. basin shape and flushing rates) generally make reservoirs highly sensitive to existing and new sources of phosphorus and microbial contamination.

Please note that, while the source water assessment rates reservoirs as highly sensitive 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. A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted.

FACTS AND FIGURES

We have 800 service connections supplying water to approximately 2600 residents. In 2020, our rates were $58.00 for the first 6,000 gallons of water used and an additional $4.25 per 1,000 gallons.

Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, E-coli, turbidity, primary inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, total organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, principal organics, and radiologicals. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted 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 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 Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date	Level Detected (average - range)	Unit	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT or AL)	Likely Source Of Contamination
Turbidity*	N	Jan-Dec 20	Avg: 0.12 Range: 0.06-0.26	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of sample <0.3	Soil runoff
Carbon, Total (finished water)	N	Jan-Dec 20	Range: 0.5-3.4	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Decomposition of natural organic matter
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (a)	N	10/2/20	90th=0.13 Range: ND – 0.14	mg/L	1.3	1.3 AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (b)	N	10/2/20	90th=1.5 Range: ND – 2.3	ug/L	0	15 AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts – Stage 2							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs - chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochlormethane, and bromoform) **	N	LRAA 2020	Town Hall : 30.25 Bus Garage: 29.75	ug/L	n/a	80 MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Haloacetic Acids (mono-,di-, and trichloroaceticacid, and mono- and dibromoaceticacid) ***	N	LRAA 2020	Town Hall : 28.6 Bus Garage : 26.2	ug/L	n/a	60 MCL	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS:

* – **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. In 2020, 100% of NTU measurements were below 0.3 NTU.

** **TTHMs**. Some people who drink water that contains trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and have an increased risk of getting cancer.

***Haloacetic Acids.** Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

(a)- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 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, 10 samples were collected from our water system at many different locations around our Town and the 90th percentile value was 0.13 mg/L.

(b)- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples collected (1.5 ug/L). The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

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.

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

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
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).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

What does this information mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations. We have learned through our testing that some other contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were below the level allowed by the State.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. The Town had 1 boil water order during 2020 on the following date; 05/12/20. This was due to a water main break.

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).
If present, elevated level 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 the service lines and home plumbing. Town of Peru 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 3 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and 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.

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 reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- 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 firefighting 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:
- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save 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 from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Closing

I am happy to say that Town of Peru had no violations accruing in 2020 and disinfection byproduct results continue to be well below state limits. Even though 2020 came with its own set of challenges due to COVID 19, our staff remained committed to providing our community with clean safe drinking water 24 hrs. a day.

I would like to express to our water users the importance of conserving water and fixing any and all leaks as soon as possible. Many times, small leaks like a toilet can increase a customer's water usage by many thousands of gallons. One leaky toilet can average around 200 gallons a day and increase your quarterly water bill by well over $100. Wasted water not only can cost you on your quarterly bill but will also affect our costs associated with producing that water. It's all of our jobs to protect this very important resource which is essential for our way of life.

As always, the Water and Sewer Departments are working 24/7 to bring good clean water and effective wastewater management to the residents of Peru. We look forward to providing the best possible service to our community and encourage you to contact us at 643-8125 Monday- Friday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm with any questions. Please check us out for more information and future updates at www.perutown.com/watersewer or on **Facebook @ Town of Peru Water and Sewer**

Thank You,

Courtney Tetrault

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W/S Superintendent

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