

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2002
Niagara County Water District
5450 Ernest Road
(Public Water Supply ID# 3100567)*

March 5, 2003

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Niagara County Water District, annually issues 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, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 **Ronald C. Johnston, Administrative Director, at (716) 434-8835**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings at the Niagara County Water District Service Center at 5450 Ernest Road, Lockport New York. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.

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 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.

The water intake is located in the west branch of the Niagara River. The water quality is considered excellent. During 2002, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The treatment plant uses pre-chlorination, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration process to ensure the quality of the water. The Niagara County Water District also uses chlorination for zebra mussel control and disinfection. Active carbon is used to improve the "taste" of water at the raw water pump station on Grand Island. The water treatment plant is classified as a direct filtration plant that uses 10 multimedia filters. In addition, fluoride and a corrosion inhibitor are added to the potable water prior to distribution.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 150,000 people through 108 service connections to Towns and Villages located in Niagara, Erie, and Orleans Counties. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 16,929,862 gallons per day during the year 2002. Our highest single day was 27,080,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers during the year was 5,999,417,086 gallons. The total water produced in 2002 was 6,179,399,598 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 179,982,512 gallons (3% of the total amount produced for 2002). This water is used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage. In 2002, water customers were charged \$0.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds (the names of each compound tested for is listed later in this report). 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 Niagara County Health Department at (716) 439-7430.**

Table 1: Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	No	3/02	1.1 ¹	mg/l	n/a	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
Barium	No	3/02	<0.05 ¹	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	No	Various	0.06 ² (ND – 0.07)	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (in distribution system)	No	Various	9 ² (ND – 25)	µg/l	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	3/02	12 ¹	mg/l	N/A	AL=20	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ This level represents the annual average calculated from data collected.

² During 2002 we collected and analyzed 53 samples for lead and copper. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 53 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. Samples for lead and copper showed results below the action level.

Table 1: Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	10/02	0.160	mg/l	10	10.0	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Entry Point ³ Turbidity	No	1/02 – 12/02	0.02 (0.01– 0.10)	NTU	N/A		Soil runoff
Entry Point Turbidity	No	1/02 – 12/02	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	Soil runoff
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Beta particle and photon activity from manmade radionuclides	No	2/99	1.2 +/- 0.7	pCi/L ⁴	0	50 ⁵	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Strontium 90	No	2/99	0.2 +/- 0.3	pCi/L	8.0	8.0	
Tritium	No	3/99	108 +/- 41	pCi/L	20,000	20,000	
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	2/99	1.4 +/- 0.8	pCi/L	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	1/02 – 12/02	26 ⁶ (18 – 39)	ug/l	n/a	MCL=100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	1/02 – 12/02	17 ⁶ (10 – 22)	ug/l	n/a	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Over 100 drinking water compliance samples were collected at the system. The following contaminants were not detected: antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cyanide, mercury, nickel, selenium, thallium, benzene, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, bromomethane, n-Butylbenzene, sec-Butylbenzene, tert-Butylbenzene, carbon tetrachloride, Chlorobenzene, chloroethane, chloromethane, 2-Chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene, Dibromomethane, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, Dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethene, cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloropropane, 1,3-Dichloropropane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, 1,1-Dichloropropene, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, ethylbenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, isopropylbenzene, p-Isopropyltoluene, Methylene Chloride, n-propylbenzene, styrene, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, Tetrachloroethene, toluene, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, trichloroethene, trichlorofluoromethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, o-xylene, m-xylene, p-xylene, vinyl chloride, alachlor, aldicarb, aldicarb sulfoxide, aldicarb sulfone, atrazine, carbofuran, chlordane, Dibromochloropropane, 2,4-D, endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, lindane, Methoxychlor, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Pentachlorophenol, Toxaphene, 2,4,5-Tp Silvex, aldrin, Benzo(a)pyrene, butachlor, carbaryl, dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, dicamba,

³ 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. Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 6/2/02 (0.10 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.5 NTU. All samples collected in 2002 were below the treatment technique level.

⁴ Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

⁵ The State considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

⁶ Results for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's) are reported as the running quarterly annual average. The range of detection is shown below the average.

dieldrin, dinoseb, diquat, endoathall, glyphosphate, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, 3-hydroxycarbofuran, methomyl, metolachlor, metribuzin, oxamyl (vydate), pichloram, propachlor, simazine, 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin).

Table 2: Unregulated Substances for Proposed Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected
Alkalinity	NR	NE	88.5 mg/liter
Raw Water Total Organic Carbon	NR	NE	3.82 mg/liter
Filtered Combined UV 254	NR	NE	0.015 liter/mg-m
Raw Water SUVA	NR	NE	0.69 liter/mg-m
Filtered SUVA	NR	NE	0.50 liter/mg-m
Cryptosporidium and Giardia	NR	NE	None Detected

TOWN OF CAMBRIA

Town of Cambria has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.65 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF HARTLAND

Town of Hartland has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	3.00 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		1 positive sample ⁷	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT

Village of Middleport has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.51 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF LEWISTON

Town of Lewiston has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	4.90 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

⁷ The positive sample result for coliform does not constitute a violation. Resamples were collected and results were negative.

VILLAGE OF LEWISTON

Village of Lewiston has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.24 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF LOCKPORT

Town of Lockport has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.89 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF NEWFANE

Town of Newfane has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.57 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF NIAGARA

Town of Niagara has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	2.12 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF PENDLETON

Town of Pendleton has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	1.41 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF PORTER

Town of Porter has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.44 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

VILLAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN

Village of Youngstown has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-	MCL	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.95 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		1 positive sample ⁸	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF ROYALTON

Town of Royalton has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-	MCL	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.97 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		1 positive sample ⁹	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF SOMERSET

Town of Somerset has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-	MCL	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	1.34 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

⁸ The positive sample result for coliform does not constitute a violation. Resamples were collected and results were negative.

⁹ The positive sample result for coliform does not constitute a violation. Resamples were collected and results were negative.

VILLAGE OF BARKER

Village of Barker has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.48 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF WHEATFIELD

Town of Wheatfield has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.68 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

TOWN OF WILSON

Town of Wilson has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-		Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.54 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		1 positive sample ¹⁰	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

¹⁰ The positive sample result for coliform does not constitute a violation. Resamples were collected and results were negative.

VILLAGE OF WILSON

Village of Wilson has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2002 reporting period.

	Violation	Date of	Level Detected (Maximum) (Range)	Unit Measure-	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ³	No	Various	0.32 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	
Turbidity ³	No	Various	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.5 NTU	
Total Coliform	No		0 positive samples	n/a	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment

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 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.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Specific Ultraviolet Absorbance (SUVA) (liter/mg-m): A measure of the amount of ultraviolet light absorbed by molecules in a solution reported as liters per milligram meter.

Filter Combined UV 254: A measure of the amount of ultraviolet light absorbed by molecules in a solution measured at 253.7 nm reported in liters per milligram meter.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. However, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2002, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2002, as part of our routine sampling, 3 samples of the water at its entry point into the distribution system were collected and analyzed for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Of these samples, none were detected for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

INFORMATION ON GIARDIA

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. During 2002, as part of our routine sampling, 3 samples of the water at its entry point into the distribution system were collected and analyzed for Giardia cysts. Of these samples, none were positive for Giardia cysts. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where handwashing practices are poor.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

*Although our drinking water met or exceeded 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 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 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:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2002 the NCWD completed a Vulnerability Assessment required under the 2002 Bio Terrorism Law, as well as various general maintenance projects at the water treatment plant and throughout the transmission system.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family 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. Please call our office if you have questions.