ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2016
CITY OF AUBURN
160 SWIFT STREET
AUBURN, NY 13021
WATER SUPPLY ID# NY 0501710

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the City of Auburn, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise public understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect municipal drinking water sources. In 2016 , City of Auburn Water Filtration Plant operators, conducted tests for over 100 contaminants. Testing resulted in the detection of several contaminants, however, none of the contaminants were found at a above the threshold set forth by the New York State Department of Health. 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 concerning this report on your drinking water, please contact Mr. John West, Chief Water Plant Operator, and 315-253-8754. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council Work Sessions. A schedule of the Council Work Sessions may be obtained from the Mayor's Office located in City Hall, 315-255-4104 or on the web site: www.auburnny.gov

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, 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) and the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The City of Auburn's water source is the Owasco Lake. The City draws its' water through a single 30-inch intake line that extends over 1,800 feet into the lake. The intake structure is a submerged concrete crib. The City's allowable withdrawal from Owasco Lake is 15 million gallons per day (mgd), as permitted by Water Resource Application #422 dated 10/3/63. The dependable yield is determined to be 48 mgd in a study conducted in 1995 by R & D Engineering, P.C., and Buffalo, New York.

Owasco Lake is classified as a Class-AA Special water body designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as listed in 6 NYCRR Part 702. It is considered an excellent source of potable water, and must be protected.

The transmission main from the Upper Pumping Station to the Filtration Plant on Swift Street consists of approximately 8,800 feet of 24-inch cast-iron pipe. The first 400 feet of transmission main is a new 30-inch diameter pipe installed as part of the re-construction of the Owasco Lake Seawall Project, completed in 2001**.** The pipe size is increased to 36-inch at the point where it crosses over the Owasco Lake Outlet adjacent to the State Dam, and is reduced to 30 inches before entering the rapid-sand filtration plant.

The City presently operates two filtration plants: a slow-sand plant, and a rapid-sand plant, which function in parallel operation. The plants are located at the corner of Swift Street and Pulsifer Drive in Auburn. The slow-sand filtration plant was constructed in 1916-17. The plant contains 4 beds with a total capacity of about 7.5 mgd. The beds consist of about 42 inches of sand supported by 12 inches of gravel. The rapid-sand filtration plant originally constructed in 1969 consists of 3 dual-media filters with a combined capacity of about 7.25 mgd. In the rapid-sand plant, all water is pre-treated with poly-aluminum chloride to facilitate coagulation and sedimentation and settling prior to filtration. All water is disinfected with Sodium Hypochlorite Solution prior to distribution. Reservoirs on Franklin Street and Swift Street maintain reserves of 10.25 mg and 3 mg respectively. The City also protects its' raw water intake pipe from Zebra Mussels by adding a chemical solution of Sodium Hypochlorite. The addition of Sodium Hypochlorite added at concentrations between 0.40 and 0.70 mg/L prevents adolescent zebra mussels from developing into adults which can attach to the inside of the intake pipe and restrict our ability to draw water from the lake. Drinking water, including bottled water, can reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. As mentioned earlier, 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 natural-occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the NYSDOH prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's and the NYSDOH's regulations. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

We currently have a program of Watershed Protection to enforce regulations, promulgated by law under NYCRR Section 1100 (Public Health).

FACTS AND FIGURES

The city of Auburn water system serves approximately 27,179 (2010 census) Auburnians through 8,800 service connections. Water from the City of Auburn is also distributed to areas within the Towns of Sennett, Fleming, Throop, Brutus, Montezuma, Springport, and Aurelius as well the Villages of Cayuga, Port Byron and Weedsport, and the Cayuga County Water Authority and the Thruway Authority. It is estimated that Auburn supplies close to 43,000 people in Cayuga County with their drinking water. The total water produced in 2016 was 1,558,099,000 (one billion, five hundred fifty eight million, ninety-nine thousand) gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 4,254,196 (four million, two hundred fifty-four thousand, one hundred ninety-six) gallons per day. The highest single day was 6,116,000 (six million, one hundred sixteen thousand) gallons per day. The amount of water metered totaled 1,308,506,320 (one billion, three hundred eight million, five hundred six thousand, three hundred twenty) gallons. This leaves a difference of 249,592,680 (two hundred forty-nine million, five hundred ninety-two thousand, six hundred eighty) gallons of un-metered water or 16% of the total water produced, that is lost due to leakage, used to flush reservoirs and mains, wash streets, fight fires, and for internal use at the water treatment plant as compared to 45% in 2006.In 2016 leak detection found a total of 65 leaks that were causing up to 240,000 gallons of water per day loss of unaccountable water. These leaks were repaired in a timely fashion. In 2016 water customers were charged $2.62 per 100 cubic feet. The minimum monthly charge for water per user is $9.28.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. These contaminants include the following:

Physical	**Owasco Lake**	**NYDOH Maximum Limit**
Raw Water Turbidity (NTU)	0.40-9.43	No Designated Limit
Color	<5	15.0 Units
Odor	<1 TON	3 Units
Radioactive Contaminants	***Potable Water***	
Gross Alpha	7.15 pCi/L	15 pCi/L
Gross Beta Activity	ND	4 pCi/L
Combined Radium 226 and 228	ND	5 pCi/L
Chemical		
pH	7.40-8.06	6.5 - 8.5
Hardness (as CaCO3 mg/l)	140	No Designated Limit
Inorganics (mg/l)		
Arsenic	<0.0010	0.01
Antimony	<0.00040	0.006
Barium	0.022	2.00
Beryllium	<0.00030	0.004
Cadmium	<0.0010	0.005
Chromium	0.0012	0.1
Chloride	28	250
Copper	0.0031	1.3
Cyanide	0.090	0.2
Fluoride	<0.1	2.2
Iron	<0.050	0.3
Iron+Manganese	<0.060	<0. 5
Lead	0.007	0.015
Manganese	<0.010	0.3
Mercury	<0.00020	0.002
Nitrate	1,0.45,0.71,0.66	10.0
Nickel	0.0010	0.1
Selenium	<0.0010	0.05
Sulfate	22	250
Silver	<0.010	0.1
Thallium	<0.00030	0.002
Sodium	15	No Designated Limits
Zinc	<0.020	5
Organics (mg/l)		
Trihalomethanes, Total	0.026-0.085	0.080
HAA5	0.017-0.036	0.060
Specific Organic Chemicals (mg/l)		
Alachlor	<0.0001	0.002
Aldicarb	ND	0.003
Aldicarb sulfone	ND	0.002
Aldicarb sulfoxide	ND	0.004
Aldrin	<0.001	<0.005
Atrazine	<0.0001	0.003
Benzo(a)pyrene	<0.00002	0.0002
Butachlor	<0.01	<0.05
Carbaryl	ND	<0.05
Carbofuran	ND	0.040
Chlordane <Alpha Gamma>	<0.00002	0.002
Dalapon	<0.001	<0.05
1,2Dibromo-3-chloropropane	<0.00002	<0.0002
Dieldrin	<0.001	<0.005
2, 4-D	<0.0001	0.050
Dinoseb	<0.0002	0.007
Dicamba	<0.01	0.05
Endrin	<0.00001	0.002
Ethylenedibromide	ND	0.00005
bis(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	<0.0006	<0.006
bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	<0.0006	<0.006
Glyphoshae	<0.005	0.5
Heptachlor	<0.00004	0.0004
Heptachlor epoxide	<0.00002	0.0002
Hexaclorobenzene	<0.0001	0.001
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	<0.0001	0.005
3-hydroxycarbofuran	ND	No designated limit
Lindane	<0.00002	0.0002
Methlocarb	ND	0.05
Methomyl	ND	<0.05
Methoxychlor	<0.0001	0.040

Metolachlor	<0.01	<0.05
Metribuzin	<0.01	<0.05
1 Naphthol	ND	0.05
Oxamyl	ND	<0.05
Pentachlorophenol	<0. 00004	0.001
Picloram	<0.0001	<0.05
Propachlor	<0.01	<0.05
Propoxur	ND	0.05
Simazine	<0.0001	0.004
Toxaphene	<0.001	0.003
2, 4, 5-TP (Silvex)	<0.0002	0.010

SUMMARY OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
PHYSICAL Turbidity ‡	No	5 days per week	0.14 Avg. Range 0.06-1.41	NTU	N/A	5.0 distribution system	Soil Runoff
PHYSICAL Turbidity	No	7 days per week	0.05 Avg. Range 0.01– 0.35	NTU	N/A	0.3–1.0 MCL filter Performance	Soil Runoff
Total Coliform	Yes	7/19/16 7/20/16 7/21/16	3 samples	N/A	0	>5%Samples[1]	Naturally Present Environment
E.Coli	Yes	7/19/16 7/20/16 7/21/16	3 samples	N/A	N/A	1 or more positive samples[2]	Human and Fecal Animal Waste
INORGANICS			INORGANICS				
Barium	No	3/17/16	0.022	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	No	3/17/16	28	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
Chromium	No	3/17/16	0.0012	ppm	N/A	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	No	3/17/16	0.090	ppm	0.2	0.2	Discharge from steel/metal factories;Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Sulfate	No	3/17/16	22	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring.
Sodium	No	3/17/16	15	ppm	N/A	No Limit	Naturally occurring.
Nitrate	No	2/17/16 5/18/16 8/18/16 11/16/16	0.71 Avg. Range 0.45-1	ppm	10	10.0 MCL	Erosion of natural deposits.
ORGANICS Trihalomethanes, Total	No	2/17/16 5/18/16 8/18/16 11/16/16	45.25 Avg. Range 26-85	ppb	N/A	80 MCL	Contained in Chlorinated Water
HAA5	No	2/17/16 5/18/16 8/18/16 11/16/16	24.81 Avg. Range 17-36	ppb	N/A	60	Contained in Chlorinated Water
Lead	No	June 2014 July 2014	1.7 Range N/D- 4	ppb	0	15[3]	Contained in Finished Water, an artifact of old piping and lead soldered joints.
Copper	No	June 2014 July 2014	0.085 Range 0.0037-0.3	mg/L	1.3	1.3[4]	Contained in Finished Water, an artifact of old piping and lead soldered joints.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha	No	4/16/15	7.15	PCi/L	0	15 PCi/L	Contained in soil or sedimentary rock formations
Gross Beta	No	4/16/15	ND	PCi/L	0	4 PCi/L	Contained in soil or sedimentary rock formations

Combined Radium 226 228	No	4/16/15	ND	PCi/L	0	5 Pci/L	Contained in soil or sedimentary rock formations
Unregulated Contaminents							
Chromium	No	3/18/15 6/18/15	0.29,0.29 0.095,0.17	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys;chromium -3or-6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood peservation
Strontium	No	3/18/15 6/18/15 12/17/15	84.1, 86.6 81.9, 80.5 85.5,82.3	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions
Hexavalent Chromium	No	3/18/15 6/18/15 12/17/15	0.033 0.048, 0.030 0.043,0.031	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys;chromium -3or-6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood prservation
Vanadium	No	6/18/15	0.12,0.11	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occuring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst
Chlorate	No	12/17/15	180,160	ppb	N/A	N/A	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant:disinfection byproduct;and used in production of chlorine dioxide
Cyanotoxin							
Microcystin Finished Water	No	9/26/16 10/3/16 10/5/16 10/7/16 10/8/16	0.16 0.17 0.16 0.19 0.19	ppb	0	N/A[5]	Naturally occurring due to algae blooms
Microcystin Raw Water	N/A	9/12/16- 10/31/16 27samples	Range ND- 1.31	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring due to algae blooms

Notes:

1,2- Since we had an E.Coli positive sample we triggered a level 2 assessment.We found E. Coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and correct any problem that were found during these assessments.We were required to complete a level 2 assessment because we found E. Coli in our system.We were required to take one corrective action and that action has been completed.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 33 samples collected. In this case, 33 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the thirtieth highest value value,1.7ppb. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any one of the 33 sites.

4 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 33 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, 33 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the thirtieth highest value value, 0.085 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

5- The United States Enviromental Protection Agency 10 day health advisory level for microcystin is 0.3 ppb for children less than or equal to 5 years of age and vulnerable populations and 1.6 ppb for all other people.

Definitions:

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. Coli violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water systemon multiple occasions.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

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).
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
Color: the presence of dissolved substance in water.
Hardness: a characteristic of water caused mainly by the salts of calcium and magnesium, such as bicarbonate, carbonate, sulfate, chloride and nitrate.
Inorganic chemicals: materials such as sand, salt, iron, calcium salts and other mineral materials of mineral origin.
Odor threshold: the minimum odor of a water sample that can just be detected after successive dilutions with odorless water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had a Level 2 assessment triggered by a positive E. coli sample. We found E.coli at the same sampling location in the city on July, 19th,20th, and 21st and thus violated the MCL for E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes.Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea,cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms.They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severly compromised immune systems.We found E. coli bacteria violating the MCL, and indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.When this occurs, we are required to conduct an assessment(s) to identify problems and correct any problems that were found during these assessments.We were required to complete a level 2 assessment because we found E. coli in our water system. In addition, we were required to make one corrective action and we completed this action.

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. The City Of Auburn 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.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Turbidity itself has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbiological growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statement in this document regarding Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Plant monitoring equipment has been updated and plant procedures have been modified to allow treatment of our water and keep it well within all regulatory requirements.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2016 our system was in compliance with all applicable State and Federal drinking water requirements.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM & GIARDIA

New York State law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis. Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis are intestinal illnesses caused by microscopic parasites. Cryptosporidiosis can be very serious for people with weak immune systems, those on chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients, as well as people with Crohn's disease or Human Immune Deficiency (HIV) infection. People with weakened immune systems should discuss with their health care providers the need to take extra precautions such as boiling water, using certified bottled water or a specially approved home filter. Individuals who think they may have Cryptosporidiosis or Giardiasis should contact their health care provider immediately. The city began a two year testing program for Giardia and Cryptosporidium in October of 2016. Samples of our raw water are collected once a month during this two year period. All three samples collected in 2016 were negative for Giardia and Cryptosporidium.
For additional information on **Cryptosporidiosis** or **Giardiasis**, please contact the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

INFORMATION ON RADIOLOGICAL TESTING

Radiological Testing was performed in 2015. Regulatory limits are as listed on the table, and all testing was below limits. Testing will be due again in 2024.

Information on Unregulated Contaminents

We were required to test for the unregulated contaminents in 2016. A list of the contaminents found are in the summary of detected contaminents section of this report.

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/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (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/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

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, and then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.
Retrofit plumbing fixtures.
Be more conscientious of water use.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

We continue to use Poly Aluminum Chloride (PAC) for coagulation. By using PAC, we have enhanced the pretreatment of the water, reduced chemical handling costs and now produce 1/3 of the waste sludge by volume as in previous years.
We continue to improve our telemetry and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems.
Lower Pumping Stattion pumps #2 and #6 were rehabbed in 2016.
New valving and battery backups installed at the Lower Pumping Station in 2016.
Twenty-four inch discharge line leaving Lower Pump Station repaired in 2016.
Removed some obsolete piping and pumps at Lower Pumping Station in 2016.
Painting of pipes at Lower Pumping Station in 2016.
HVAC system upgraded at Lower Pump Station in 2016.
New backwash pump installed and old backwash pump rehabbed in 2016
New vacuum priming system installed at Upper pumping station and Water Filtration Plant in 2016
New Sodium Hypochlorite tanks and pumps installed at Upper pumping Station 2015
Concrete repair to influent flume of the Rapid sand Filters 2015
New mixers and VFD's installed at sedimentation basin 2015
New VFD for low lift pump at the Water Filtration Plant 2015

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What affects the taste of my water?
The taste of drinking water is affected by its mineral content as well as the presence of chlorine, which is used to protect against potential bacterial contamination. Sometimes plumbing can cause a metallic flavor, especially if water has been sitting in pipes for many hours. Taste, however, does not necessarily indicate a higher or lower degree of contamination. At times, when conditions are right, algae blooms occur in our lake sometimes causing objectionable odors and taste in the finished drinking water. Although algae are removed during the treatment process, some of their metabolites may be left behind. The two most common metabolites are geosmin and 2-methylisoborneal (MIB). Even though these compounds are harmless, the human sense of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in water at concentrations as low as 5 parts per trillion. To give you an idea of what a "part per trillion" is, consider this – One part per trillion is equivalent to one cent in 10 million dollars.

What affects the way my water looks?
In addition to naturally occurring minerals, our water also includes small amounts of iron picked up from our cast-iron water mains. When a surge of pressure occurs, usually from a main break or a fire hydrant being used, the sediment becomes stirred into the water. During these episodes, the water supply to your home can be tinted yellow or even brownish-red. The iron is harmless and settles out again in a few hours. Please be aware that it will stain clothing, so don't wash your clothes if you experience iron-tinted water. Also, avoid running hot water at these times, if possible, so that your water heater doesn't refill with iron tinted water.

Do I really need to buy a Water Filter or Home Treatment System?
The decision to buy water filters or home treatment systems is yours. Our water meets and exceeds rigid State and Federal Standards. If you decide to buy a filter system, be a smart shopper and do some homework. Be sure that any treatment device you buy is registered with the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Information on these systems is available at libraries, or from the NSF.
Contact the NSF toll free at 877-867-3435 or visit www.nsf.org.

A NOTE FROM New York STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The NYS Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for the City of Auburn, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. This 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 lakes. 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 the section of this document "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected in the drinking water.) The source water assessments are intended to provide managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.
As mentioned before, our water is derived primarily from Owasco Lake. The source water assessment has rated this source as having an elevated susceptibility to protozoa and phosphorus due to the amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area and the quantity of wastewater discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants to surface water. In addition, this source water assessment rated Owasco Lake as having an elevated susceptibility to pesticide contamination due to the amount of agricultural lands.
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 complete assessment is available for review by calling the Cayuga County Health Department at 253-1405.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Seth Jensen
Director of Municipal Utilities
315-255-4180
sjensen@auburnny.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency **Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791**

www.epa.gov/safewater/

Cayuga County Health Department
Kathleen Cuddy, Public Health Director
315-253-1560

John West,
Chief Water Plant Operator
315-253-8754
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Visit the City's website for information regarding our water supply. http://www.auburnny.gov