



# 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT



## Cambridge Water System

Public Water Supply ID# NY5700117

January 1 to December 31, 2020

This report complies with Part 5-1.72, New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR) and federal Consumer Confidence Report regulations (40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O).

### Introduction:

New York American Water (NYAW) is issuing this report describing the quality of drinking water supplied to customers of the Cambridge Water System. 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. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water especially those who may not have received this notification directly (for example people in apartments, nursing homes, school, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact our customer call center at 877-426-6999, or at NewYorkAmWater.com, or the Glen Falls District Office of the New York State Department of Health at 518-793-3893.

### A Message from the New York American Water President



To Our Valued Customer:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I am pleased to share our **Annual Water Quality Report** with you – this is our report card on the quality of the drinking water delivered to our customers. The report shows that we continue to supply you with water that

meets or surpasses all county, state and federal water quality standards. We encourage our customers to review this report as it provides important details about the source

and quality of your drinking water between January and December 2020.

New York American Water invests in our infrastructure to ensure the delivery of quality drinking water. This includes the facilities and technology needed to draw water from the source and treat it, along with miles and miles of pipeline hidden below the ground to bring water to your tap. In addition, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to provide you with quality water..

Delivering safe, reliable water service requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. **In 2020, we invested approximately \$62 million in system improvements across the state.** New York American Water is also making important investments in water treatment technology to comply with New York State Department of Health's new drinking water standards for emerging compounds, specifically 1,4-Dioxane, PFOA and PFOS.

The COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted how essential water is for public health. We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering safe and reliable water service while maintaining a safe environment for our employees and customers. New York American Water extends our sincerest gratitude to our field employees as well as all frontline workers and essential employees who are on the job and keeping life flowing. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lynda DiMenna  
President, New York American Water



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## About New York American Water

New York American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water company in New York, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 350,000 people.

## About American Water

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 7,100 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to more than 14 million people in 46 states and Ontario.

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

The NYAW Cambridge water system serves 513 homes located in the Town of Cambridge N.Y. The water source is groundwater drawn from two sand and gravel wells that are located near the intersection of Route 313 and Fish Hatchery Rd. in Jackson Township. Water treatment includes chlorination for disinfection and zinc orthophosphate for corrosion control. This reduces the amount of lead and copper leached from household plumbing into the water supply.

The New York State Department of Health 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's 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. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, it should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See the 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.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbial matter and nitrate contamination. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial / commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and the associated industrial activity in the assessment area. In addition, the wells are high yielding wells, drawing from an unconfined aquifer, which is a shallow aquifer that occurs immediately below the ground surface and has no overlying protective layer for protection from potential sources of contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbial matter, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards. Previous tests conducted have indicated the drinking water source to be free of herbicides, pesticides, and volatile organic contaminants.

The 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, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us at the telephone number provided in this report.

## Are there contaminants in our drinking water?

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 at 800-426-4791, or the Glen Falls District Office of the New York State Department of Health at 518-793-3893.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The tables presented on the next page depict 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.



## Definitions:

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

**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 Disinfectant 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 Disinfectant 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.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (µg/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)

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

## Water Quality Results

### Table of Detected Contaminants

| Contaminant and Unit of Measurement                        | Dates of Sampling (mo/yr) | MCL Violation Y/N | Level Detected  | MCLG | MCL                  | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants (at Point-of-Entry location)</b> |                           |                   |                 |      |                      |   |
| Barium, mg/l   | May and July 2019         | N                 | 0.0140 - 0.0153 | 2    | 2                    | Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Arsenic, ug/l  | May and July 2019         | N                 | 0.2 - 0.3       | NA   | 10                   | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                   |
| Selenium, ug/l   | May and July 2019         | N                 | 0.4 - 0.7       | 50   | 50                   | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.                         |
| Chromium, mg/l   | May and July 2019         | N                 | 2.4 - 2.6       | 100  | 100                  | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Fluoride, mg/l   | May and July 2019         | N                 | 0.0452 - 0.0728 | NA   | 2.2                  | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Chloride, mg/l   | 04/2020                   | N                 | 19.8            | NA   | 250                  | Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.   |
| Nitrate, mg/l  | 04/2020                   | N                 | 0.889           | 10   | 10                   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                              |
| Sulfate, mg/l  | 04/2020                   | N                 | 10.3            | NA   | 250                  | Naturally occurring.  |
| Sodium, mg/l <sup>1</sup>                                  | 04/2020                   | N                 | 14.8            | NA   | (See health effects) | Naturally occurring.  |
| Zinc, mg/l   | 04/2020                   | N                 | 0.004           | NA   | 5                    | Naturally occurring.  |

<sup>1</sup>Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

| <b>Disinfectant/ Disinfection Byproduct (D/DBP) Parameters (taken in the Distribution System)</b> |                        |               |                |           |      |          |  |
|---|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|------|----------|--|
| Contaminant and Unit of Measurement   | Date of Sample (mo/yr) | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range     | MCLG | MCL      | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes], µg/L  | 08/2020                | N             | 10             | N/A       | N/A  | 80       | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| HAA [Haloacetic Acids], µg/L  | 08/2020                | N             | 1.2            | N/A       | N/A  | 60       | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. HAA's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| <b>Disinfectants (Test results from the Entry Point to the distribution system location)</b>      |                        |               |                |           |      |          |  |
| Chlorine, mg/l  | 2020                   | N             | 1.84 (average) | 1.80-1.86 | N/A  | MRDL = 4 | Water additive used to control microbes.   |



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## Lead and Copper Rule (Tap water samples were collected from 10 customer homes in the service area)

| Contaminant (units)      | Date Sampled | Action Level | MCLG | Amount Detected (90th %tile) | Range: Low-High | Homes Above Action Level | Violation | Typical Source                           |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| Copper(ppm) <sup>2</sup> | 6/2018       | 1.3          | 1.3  | 0.222                        | 0.0305-0.266    | 0                        | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead, (ppb) <sup>2</sup> | 6/2018       | 15           | 0    | 8.6                          | ND – 73.1       | 1                        | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |

10 samples were collected from approved sites in your water system for Lead and Copper analyses in June 2018

<sup>2</sup> 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 lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for lead was exceeded at one of the sites tested. The action level for copper was *not* exceeded at any of the sites tested.

\*\*If present, elevated levels 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 service lines and home plumbing. NYAW 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Unregulated Substances\*

| Contaminant (units)                   | Date Sampled | Maximum Amount Detected | Range: Low-High | Typical Source   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Perfluorooctanic acid – (PFOA) (ng/l) | 09-10/2020   | 1.36                    | 1.19 - 1.25     | Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications. |

\* Samples were not required but were taken as a precaution. The New York State health advisory level was set at 10ng/L for PFOA and PFOS until August 25, 2020 when the regulations were established. These require sampling at Cambridge Water System starting February 25, 2021.

## What does this information mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2020. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

## Is our water system meeting other rules that govern operations?

During 2020, our system was in compliance with all applicable New York State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

## 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).

## 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 several reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both 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:



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- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. 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. A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it 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 can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

New York American Water is offering a free 'leak detection kit' for home use. If desired, please call our 24-hour customer call center at 877-426-6999 and request one.

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. For questions concerning this report or your water quality, please contact Natasha Niola, Water Quality Manager, at 516-273-5670; or New York American Water's customer call center at 1-877-426-6999; or on the web at [newyorkamwater.com](http://newyorkamwater.com).



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