



# 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT



## Indian Hill Subdivision Water System (Waccabuc Operations)

Public Water Supply ID# NY5918382

January 1 to December 31, 2020

### Introduction:

To comply with State regulations, Indian Hill Water System will be annually issuing 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 did not meet all State drinking water health standards. We did report that our system did violate a maximum contaminant level for radionuclides. We suspected it was a contaminated sampling tap and the sampling tap was replaced. Please see last two pages of this report for more details. 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 Environmental Consultants at 845-486-1030 or American Water at 1-877-426-6999. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

### 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. 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



## 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.

Our water system serves 360 people through 80 service connections. Our water source is three groundwater wells located near the pump station. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

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.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 3 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated the wells as having a medium to high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the proximity of low intensity residential activities in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from unconfined aquifers with unknown hydraulic conductivities and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, 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 for microbial contamination. 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?

As NY State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants, including: Total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids and radiologicals. The tables presented below show 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. Please refer to the "Water Quality Results" chart for more information.

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.

## 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



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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

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (mo/ yr)	Violation Y/N	Maximum Level Detected	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (mg/l)	11/2020	N	0.092	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (mg/l)	11/2020	N	2.55	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (mg/l)	11/2020	N	19.0	NA	See Health Effects <sup>1</sup>	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners.
Sulfate(mg/l)	11/2020	N	22.3	NA	250	Naturally occurring.
Zinc (mg/l)	11/2020	N	0.0359	NA	5	Naturally occurring.
Chloride (mg/l)	11/2020	N	77.4	NA	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Nickel (ug/l)	11/2020	N	1.37	NA	NA	Naturally occurring.
Color (Units)	11/2020	N	10	NA	15	Natural color caused by organic matter.
Odor (TON)	11/2020	N	1.00	NA	3	Natural sources

Health Effects:

<sup>1</sup> Sodium (mg/l): Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a severely restricted sodium diet. Water in excess of 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a moderately restricted diet.

### Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (year)	Violation Y/N	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), µg/l <sup>2</sup>	08/2020	N	ND	ND - ND	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes], µg/l <sup>2</sup>	08/2020	N	8.65	4.22 - 8.65	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.
Chlorine, mg/L *	2020	N	1.84	1.34 - 2.90	N/A	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Chlorine residual results in the table above represent the range of samples taken at the treatment plant Point-of-Entry location to the distribution system.

<sup>2</sup> The Highest Level Detected from the table above for TTHM's and HAA's represent the highest level from the two distribution locations sampled. (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform). (HAA5 – mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid)

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water sampled at homeowner locations)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Violation Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result (Range)	# of samples	# of samples exceeding AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (mg/l)	07-09/2020	N	0.198 (0.035 - 0.201)	10	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ug/l)	07-09/2020	N	2.25 (ND - 4.97)	10	0	0	15	

Values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. For the purposes of compliance for the Lead and Copper Program, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value is the second highest value among results from the ten sites tested. No individual sample exceeded the action level for either copper or lead.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. NYAW is responsible for providing high



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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>.

### Radiological Contaminants <sup>3</sup>

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (year)	Violation Y/N	Average of Levels Detected <sup>1</sup>	Range (Low – High)	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha, (including radium – 226 but excluding Radon and Uranium), pCi/L	2020 Entry Point	Y	20.2	ND – 35.92	0	15	Erosion and decay of natural deposits
	2020 Well 2		5.12	3.51 – 6.38			
	2020 Well 3		0.84	ND – 3.07			
	2020 Well 4		2.61	0.47 – 5.36			
Gross Beta, pCi/L	2020 Entry Point	N	15.06	8.23 – 21.50	0	50*	
	2020 Well 2		10.78	7.83 – 15.10			
	2020 Well 3		4.17	1.08 – 7.14			
	2020 Well 4		7.43	3.24 – 10.80			
Combined Radium- 226 & Radium 228 pCi/L	2020 Entry Point	Y	6.12	1.84 – 10.74	0	5	
	2020 Well 2		3.03	2.55 – 4.08			
	2020 Well 3		0.58	ND – 1.02			
	2020 Well 4		1.03	0.03 – 1.85			
Uranium, ug/L	2020 Entry Point	N	7.81	5.74 – 11.60	0	30 <sup>2</sup>	
	2020 Well 2		13.48	10.20 – 16.90			
	2020 Well 3		3.77	2.96 – 5.49			
	2020 Well 4		9.55	2.82 – 13.90			

<sup>1</sup> This level represents the highest running annual average calculated from the data collected. Radiological results show the range of quarterly results and the annual average of each well and entry point. MCL compliance is determined by the annual average at the Entry Point Only.

<sup>2</sup> 30 µg/l of uranium is approximately 20.1 pCi/L

<sup>3</sup> Radioactive contaminant monitoring samples were collected quarterly in 2020.

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

\*\*Some values in the range, though listed on the laboratory report, are below the minimum detectable limit listed on the laboratory report.

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants\*

Contaminant (units)	Date Sampled	Maximum Amount Detected	MCL	MCLG	Range: Low-High	Typical Source
Perfluorooctanoic acid – (PFOA) (ng/l)	09-10/2020	8.98	10	N/A	4.48 – 8.98	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid – (PFOS) (ng/l)	09-10/2020	6.40	10	N/A	2.12 – 6.40	

\* Samples were not required but were taken as a precaution. The New York State MCL was established at 10ng/L for PFOA and PFOS on August 25, 2020. These require sampling at Indian Hill Water System starting February 25, 2021



## What does this information mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had MCL violations in 2020 for radionuclides. We suspected it was a contaminated sampling tap and the sampling tap was replaced. Please see last two pages of this report for more details. See attached public notifications that were mailed to you in September and December 2020.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's 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 (1.800.426.4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## 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. Please see public notifications on the last two pages of this report indicating the MCL exceedance for adjusted gross alpha and combined radium.

## 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:

- 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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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Indian Hill Water Has Levels of Adjusted Gross Alpha and Combined Radium 226/228 Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on 09/01/20 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for adjusted gross alpha and combined radium 226/228. The standard for adjusted gross alpha is 15.0 pCi/L and for combined radium 226/228 is 5.0 pCi/L. The average level of adjusted gross alpha over the last year (samples collected from 10/09/19 to 07/22/20) has been 20.2 pCi/L and the average level of for combined radium 226/228 has been 6.0 pCi/L.

### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **You do not need to** boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### What is being done?

New York American Water is replacing the sampling point from which these compliance samples are collected. Laboratory analysis results of the distribution water, along with the contributing raw water wells, demonstrate that the levels of adjusted gross alpha and combined radium 226/228 are well below the MCL. This leads us to believe that the elevated levels of adjusted gross alpha and combined radium 226/228 are directly related to the existing compliance sampling tap and its associated piping.

New York American Water anticipates resolving the problem shortly. The existing sampling tap has been replaced and the entire water system has been resampled.

The analytical results for radionuclides take approximately one month to be finalized. We will communicate the results with all our customers as soon as they become available.

For more information, please contact Natasha Cambria at 516-273-5670, New York American Water Supervisor of Water Quality and Compliance or Rich Kane at 845-372-9924, Environmental Consultants Water Operator.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by New York American Water.

State Water System ID#: NY5918382

Date distributed: 09/21/20



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We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on 10/22/20 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for adjusted gross alpha and combined radium 226/228. The standard for adjusted gross alpha is 15 pCi/L and for combined radium 226/228 is 5 pCi/L. The average level of adjusted gross alpha over the last year (samples collected from 01/10/20 to 10/22/20) has been 19 pCi/L and the average level of for combined radium 226/228 has been 6 pCi/L.

### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **You do not need to** boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### What is being done?

As mentioned in the first notification, the sampling point, from which these compliance samples are collected, has been replaced. Laboratory analysis results of this sampling point now demonstrate that there is **zero** adjusted gross alpha and levels below the MCL of combined radium 226/228. We took additional samples at the raw water wells and they demonstrate that there are levels below the MCL for both adjusted gross alpha and combined radium 226/228.

Please be at ease in knowing your health is our top priority. We will continue sampling and provide updates if necessary.

For more information, please contact Natasha Niola at 516-273-5670, New York American Water Manager of Water Quality and Compliance.

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