



# 2016 Annual Water Quality Report

Lucas Estates  
Water System

PWS ID: NY5522155



## A Message from the New York American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

New York American Water is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share some very good news about the quality of your drinking water. As you read through our Annual Water Quality Report, you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards. **Better yet, the price you pay for this high-quality water service remains about a penny per gallon.**

This is an exceptional value when you consider 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. What's more, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it.

Delivering reliable, high-quality water service also requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. **In 2016 alone, we invested approximately \$44 million in system improvements across the state; and plan on investing another \$40 million in 2017.**

Because water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and overall quality of life, New York American Water's employees are committed to ensuring that quality water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future. We hope you agree that your water service is worth every penny.

Please take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using the data from water quality testing conducted for your local system between January and December 2016.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Bruce  
President, New York American Water



*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016*  
*Lucas Estates*  
*2919 Lucas Tpke. Accord, NY 12404*  
*Public Water Supply ID# 5522155*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Lucas Estates Water Company, 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 met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate 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 Environmental Consultants, at (845) 486-1030. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's 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 93 people through 31 service connections. Our water source is one groundwater well, located at 2919 Lucas Tpke. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumer is, or will become contaminated. See 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 this well as having a medium to high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a septic system within the assessment area. In addition, the well draws greater than 100 gallons per minute from an unconfined aquifer, and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that while the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets the New York state drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us at our office at 2919 Lucas Tpke. Accord, NY at (845)-626-3288.

## 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, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. 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 Ulster County Health Department at (845) 340-3010.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
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### *Inorganic Contaminant*

Barium	<i>No</i>	8/14	.028	Mg/l	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	<i>No</i>	8/15	.10 (2) ND- .11	Mg/l	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes
Lead	<i>No</i>	8/15	2.1(3) ND – 2.1	Ug/l	15	Al = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate	<i>No</i>	3/16	0.0531	Mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks
THM (trihalomethanes)	<i>No</i>	8/16	2.73	Ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA (haloacetic acids)	<i>No</i>	8/16	0.84	Ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Notes:

2 – 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. In this case, 5 samples were collected, at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was 2.1 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 samples taken, which was .10 mg/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

### Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

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

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2016, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **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 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.



**There's a lot more to your water bill than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future. All for less than a penny a gallon.

 **WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.**  
**FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD, TOO, at [amwater.com](http://amwater.com).**

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