

## **West Branch Acres Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017**

Public Water Supply # 3905692

West Branch Acres, c/o New York American Water, P.O. Box 5611, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, West Branch Acres, Inc. is issuing this 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, we conducted numerous tests for contaminants, and 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 if you want to learn more about your water supply, please contact:

John Muro II, President of Allied Pollution Control, Inc. at (845) 878-0007 or

New York American Water Customer Service Center: (877) 426-6999 or

New York American Water's Water Quality Manager: (516) 632-2215

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

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. The water provided by WBA is supplied by two Groundwater wells on WBA property, located on Gen. MacArthur Drive. The Groundwater Wells are disinfected with sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) and pumped directly in to the system. Our water system serves approximately 292 people through 74 service connections.

The NYS DOH 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 wells. 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 section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our drinking water is derived from 2 drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium to high susceptibility to microbials. These ratings are due primary to the close proximity of septic systems. The wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

While the source water assessment rates our well(s) 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.

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 your water supplier or the Putnam County Health Department.

## 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, 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, may be 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, <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> or the Putnam County Health Department at (845) 808-1390, <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health>.

**Detected Contaminants.** We test for a number of contaminants. The tables show any concentration above its minimum detection limit (MDL) in 2017. If we can detect a contaminant, it does not mean that it is above the MCL or that we need to take action.

### TABLE OF DETECTED SUBSTANCES

Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average & Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Aluminum	No	12/2/15	10.8	µg/l	N/A	N/A	Water treatment chemical
Alkalinity	No	12/2/15	128.7	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Barium	No	12/2/15	56.2	µg/l	N/A	200	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Calcium	No	12/2/15	70300	µg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	12/2/15	90.5	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Chromium	No	12/2/15	2.2	µg/l	100	100	Naturally occurring
Copper	No	6/14/2017	0.457 <sup>1</sup> (0.140-0.528)	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness	No	12/2/15	230	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Lead	No	6/14/2017	5.7 <sup>2</sup> (1.6 – 8.0)	µg/l	0	AL – 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	No	12/2/15	13200	µg/l			Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	4/19/2017	2.58	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	No	12/2/15	.012	mg/l	10	10	Naturally occurring
pH	No	12/2/15	7.05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sodium <sup>3</sup>	No	11/21/17, 7/20/17 4/19/17, 2/14/17	43.71 (39.2 - 48.4)	mg/l	N/A	270 (20)	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Sulfate	No	12/2/15	26.6	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Zinc	No	12/2/15	4.7	µg/l	N/A	5000	Naturally occurring
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
Haloacetic Acids <sup>4</sup>	No	7/20/2017	1.9	µg/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Trihalomethanes <sup>4</sup>	No	7/20/2017	4.25	µg/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes Well #1	No	4/19/2017	3.6				
Well #2	No	4/19/2017	2.9	µg/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> During 2017 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for copper. The level presented in the above table represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the average of the two highest samples which equaled 0.457 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Copper (mg/l.)	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
June 2017	0.140	0.317	0.341	0.385	0.528

<sup>2</sup> During 2017 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for lead. The level presented in the above table represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 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 lead 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 the average of the two highest samples which equaled 5.7 µg/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Lead (µg/l.)	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
June 2017	1.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	8.0

<sup>3</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 sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

<sup>4</sup> THM's can be formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

**Definitions:** This report is based upon tests conducted in 2017. Key terms used in this report come from the EPA and are defined here.

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

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

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**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).

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

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

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

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

## 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.

Although lead was detected below the MCL, it was detected, therefore 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, 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. West Branch Acres 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 2017, 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).

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME AGAINST CROSS-CONNECTIONS:

Under Part 5 Section 5-1.31 of the New York State Sanitary Code, the New York State Department of Health requires water system to have a Cross Connection Control Program and to educate its customers in preventing cross connections in their homes.

Without proper protection devices, something as useful as your garden hose has the potential to poison your home's water supply. In fact, over half of the nation's cross-connections involve unprotected garden hoses.

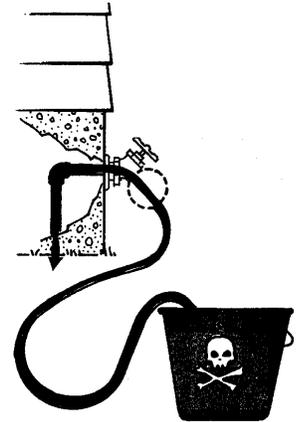
### What is a "cross-connection?"

A cross-connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement, which can allow your drinking water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

### What is "backflow"?

It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to a change in pressures, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.

A potentially hazardous cross-connection occurs every time someone uses a garden hose sprayer to apply insecticides or herbicides to their lawn. Another cross-connection occurs when someone uses their garden hose to clear a stoppage in their sewer line.



Without a backflow prevention device between your hose and hose bib (spigot or outside faucet), the contents of the hose and anything it is connected to can backflow into the piping system and contaminate your drinking water.

This hazardous situation sometimes can affect more than a single home. In 1977, an entire town in North Dakota had to be rationed drinking water from National Guard water trucks while the town's water distribution system was flushed and disinfected following contamination by DDT. Investigation determined that two residents spraying DDT had made direct cross-connections to their homes. A backflow condition had occurred, sucking the DDT through the home piping systems and out into the town's water distribution system.

Backflows due to cross-connections are serious plumbing problems. They can cause sickness and even death. However, they can be avoided by the use of proper protection devices. Each spigot at your home should have a hose-bib vacuum breaker installed. This is a simple, inexpensive device which can be purchased at any plumbing or hardware store. Installation is as easy as attaching your garden hose to a spigot.

Now you know how cross connections can occur and how to avoid and prevent them. If you know of a cross connection in your plumbing and need assistance in correcting the hazard, please contact Allied Pollution Control, Inc. or New York American Water immediately. For more information about cross connections, you may contact the Putnam County Health Department at (845) 808-1390 <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health>.

## WATER CONSERVATION:

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.

## **How Can I Conserve My Water?**

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. Repair 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office at (845) 878-0007 if you have questions.

This report was compiled and prepared by your water system operator:

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*Water and Wastewater Specialists*

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