

July 1, 2019



**Lynda DiMenna**  
New York American  
Water President

## **From the Desk of Lynda DiMenna, New York American Water President: New York American Water's Commitment to Delivering Clean, Safe Drinking Water**

In recent weeks, the safety of the source water that provides Long Island residents with drinking water has been called into question. There have been media stories regarding 1,4-dioxane and other emerging contaminants. Those stories have caused some of our customers to ask, "what is 1,4-dioxane?", "how does it affect my family's drinking water?", and "what steps are being taken to combat it?".

I'd first like to emphasize that New York American Water meets and surpasses all federal, state and local drinking water standards. Our annual water quality reports demonstrate this and are available [online](#) for our customers to access. In addition, we work cooperatively with federal and state regulators to support the development of new drinking water regulations that will benefit our customers.

As the water provider for over 125,000 homes and businesses on Long Island, we also want to serve as an educational resource for our customers, so they feel confident in the quality of the product we are delivering. With this goal in mind, I want to provide our customers and stakeholders with an update on how we are addressing 1,4-dioxane.

1,4-dioxane is an industrial solvent, and its use by Long Island's manufacturing industry goes back decades. This man-made compound is found in many cosmetics, detergents, shampoos and some pharmaceuticals. It came into contact with Long Island's water supply, a sole-source aquifer, after decades of improper disposal made its way through the soil and into the aquifer. The sources of 1,4-dioxane are being addressed in state legislatures across the country, including New York, with a bill having just reached Governor Cuomo's desk seeking to limit 1,4-dioxane in products to protect our groundwater. In addition, New York is developing an enforceable drinking water limit for 1,4-dioxane with the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council recommending a limit of 1.0 part per billion (ppb) to the New York State Department of Health.

While we currently meet all standards related to 1,4-dioxane, New York American Water is not waiting for the final decision regarding the regulation to act. We have already taken the proactive measure of sampling and testing our wells with the proposed MCL of 1.0 ppb as our baseline. Of our 59 wells on Long Island, two wells have tested above the proposed MCL. These wells, which are located at our Seaman's Neck Road Plant in Seaford and at Plant 16 in Roosevelt, are operated on a last-on, first-off basis and, if used, are blended with water from other wells to reduce the concentration of 1,4-dioxane.

Looking ahead, we have begun designing long-term treatment for these wells and are prepared to make the investments needed to bring the treatment online. In addition, New York American Water has filed a complaint in federal court against those responsible to recover the company's treatment costs. It is incumbent upon us to seek financial reimbursement on behalf of our customers for the additional treatment required to provide safe, clean drinking water.

As the Long Island community moves forward on 1,4-dioxane, New York American Water will continue to make the investments needed and secure expertise and resources to provide our customers with safe and reliable drinking water. We will also support lawmakers and regulators to put forward regulations that serve to better protect our valued customers.