

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE

**For the Town of Geneseo Districts 1,2 and 5 Town of Groveland/Conesus Lake Districts
Public Water Supply
Water Supply Id No.: NY2530005**

In 2004, The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) adopted more strict rules regarding public water systems based on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule. Public Water Systems using surface water as their source, are required to monitor for chemicals called Disinfection Byproduct (DBPs), which include two groups of chemicals, Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. EPA has established maximum allowable levels of disinfection byproducts called the maximum contaminant level (MCL). A water monitoring result exceeding the MCL is a violation and public notification is required.

The Town of Geneseo's Water Operators work diligently to meet the NYSDOH and EPA water compliance standards. In the first quarter of 2011, the standards for Trihalomethane levels were not met. **Although the analytical results for this monitoring period were below the MCL, compliance is determined by the running annual average.** The Town of Geneseo, Village of Geneseo and the Livingston County Department of Health are working toward a solution to this situation and expect to rectify this matter in the near future. The Town of Geneseo and the Livingston County Department of Health will continue to closely monitor the water system to ensure that water quality is acceptable for all individuals being served. An alternative water supply such as bottled water is not necessary at this time.

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that include chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as leaves, algae, or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethane in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. A few studies of women drinking water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages, and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how

frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system, and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

Questions may be directed to the Town of Geneseo Water Department at 243-1544 or the Livingston County Department of Health. The Livingston County Department of Health can be reached at 243-7280 Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You may also reach the Department of Health after business hours or on weekends by calling the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 243-7100 or by e-mail: dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us .

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.