



*Town of Peru  
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015  
Peru Water District  
3036 Main Street  
Peru, NY 12972  
(Public Water Supply ID#NY0900216)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Peru Water District, 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, we conducted tests for many contaminants required by NYS and the E.P.A. 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 Courtney Tetrault, Water & Sewer Superintendent, 518-643-8125 or the Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held every second and forth Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Peru Town Hall.

## **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.

The Town of Peru supplies three water districts and one out of district area with water from two sources. The primary source is Furnace Brook that fills the Town reservoir, which holds approximately 1.6 million gallons. The secondary source is the Little Au Sable River, which is held in reserve for an emergency pumping facility on River Road. Both of these areas are of good inorganic and physical qualities.

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 move can move to the source. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to customers is, or will be contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants detected. The source water assessment provides resource managers with additional information for protecting source water in the future.

This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There are no noteworthy contamination threats associated with other discrete contamination sources. Finally, it should be noted that hydrologic characteristics (e.g. basin shape and flushing rates) generally make reservoirs highly sensitive to existing and new sources of phosphorus and microbial contamination.

Please note that, while the source water assessment rates reservoirs as highly sensitive 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 contracting us, as noted.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

We have 780 service connections supplying water to approximately 2600 residents. In 2015, our rates were \$54.00 for the first 6,000 gallons of water used and an additional \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons.

## **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, E-coli, turbidity, primary inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, total organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, principal organics, and radiologicals. 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 Clinton County Health Department at 518-565-4870.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date of Sample	Level Detected (average - range)	Unit Measurement	MCL G	Regulatory Limit (MCL, T or AL)	Likely Source Of Contamination
Turbidity*	N	Jan-Dec 15	Range .02-.28	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of sample <1.0	soil runoff
Carbon, Total (finished water)	N	Jan-Dec 15	Range .8-2.55	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Decomposition of natural organic matter
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper (a)	N	9/15/2015	0.12 Range: <0.02-.17	mg/l	1.3	1.3 AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (b)	N	9/15/2015	4.0 Range: ND -8	ug/l	0	15 AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate	N	9/29/2015	0.06	mg/l	< 5	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	9/29/2015	.010	mg/l	2	2 MCL	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from drilling waste
Chloroform	N	9/29/15	18.8	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	N	9/29/15	3.1	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride	N	9/29/15	0.09	mg/l	N/A	2.2	Naturally occurring

**Disinfection Byproducts – Stage 2**

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs - chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform) **	N	LRAA 2015	Town Hall -42.4 Bus Garage – 47.0	ug/l	n/a	80 MCL	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid) ***	N	LRAA 2015	Town Hall – 36 Bus Garage – 32.8	ug/l	n/a	60 MCL	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms

**TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS:**

\* – **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. All NTU measurements (100%) were below TT and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

\*\* **TTHMs**. Some people who drink water that contains trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and have an increased risk of getting cancer.

\*\*\***Haloacetic Acids**. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

(a)- The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 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. In this case, 10 samples were collected from our water system at many different locations around our Town and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the second highest value (0.12 mg/l).

(b)- The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected (4 ug/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.

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

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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.

**LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average

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

The Town only had 1 boil water order in July for the Tops Plaza only due to a loss of pressure when they were doing water line repairs.

## **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).

If present, elevated level of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children, Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with the service lines and home plumbing. Town of Peru 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 3-seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **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 up 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.*

## CLOSING

I am happy to say that the Town of Peru has had no violations accruing in 2015 and disinfection byproduct testing results continue to be well below state limits. We encourage our customers to take advantage of our filtration plant up grade and fully use the great product we now provide to the town water customers.

2015 brought on a big change to the Peru Water & Sewer Dept., longtime Superintendent Greg Timmons retired after 40+ dedicated years of service to the Town of Peru. I was honored to be recommended and appointed to fill the vacant position Greg's retirement created. I started my employment with the Town in 1996 as a part-time employee working as a laborer. I have been a full-time Maintenance Worker since 1998 and hold a 2A Water Operator's License, a Grade C Water Operator's License, a Distribution System License and a 2A Wastewater Operator's License. I hope to provide the same great attention and service to the Town of Peru as Greg did for many years to come.

As always the Water & Sewer Department is working 24/7 to deliver good clean water to service the residents of Peru. We look forward to providing the best possible service to our community & encourage you to contact us at 643-8125 Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm with any questions.

Thank You,

*Courtney Tetrault*

Courtney Tetrault  
W/S Superintendent