

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

## **Village of Goshen Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our consumers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We continuously monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Treatment technique requirements are that 5% of our turbidity values cannot exceed 0.3 NTU, during August of 2024, 24.8% of our readings exceeded this standard. In addition, the entire Village of Goshen was placed on a precautionary boil water order 8/24/2024 until 8/28/2024 due to the high turbidity levels.

### **What should I do?**

**You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.** We did not find any contamination, and none of the laboratory testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

### **What does this mean?**

*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*

NYS Subpart 5.1 states that we are required to take 6 bacteria samples over 2 consecutive days based on the size of our system. All samples must test negative for Coliform and E. Coli bacteria. Sampling began first thing Monday morning. A bacteria sample MUST incubate for at least 18 hours after that the sample must be tested, the results verified and report completed. No bacteria had been found in the water system at all during this time however because turbidity could possibly have an effect on disinfection, bacteria tests are required.

### **What happened? What was done?**

The reservoir was experiencing higher than normal raw water turbidity readings due to naturally occurring algal blooms. We were able to keep the turbidity levels under control until a storm interrupted the electricity for the pre-treatment system at the water plant. Because of the length of the outage, the damage sustained by our filters was quite substantial. We immediately shut the filters down, had a temporary power line installed to restore power and utilized the Crystal Run Wells to mitigate the amount of water coming from the plant.

Over the following weeks our operators checked all the mechanicals including surface wash pumps, replaced nozzles, checked check valves, cleaned both filters settling tubes, added filter media and called in experts for advice. We had a representative from NY Rural water onsite as well as a representative from H2O. We reached out to our current chemical supplier and we had their chemist come onsite on 8/22 as well as P&D Engineers and they were able to dial in the correct dosages for the condition of the water. Saturday 8/24 a feed pump failure (due to increased dosage rates) was noticed and corrected. Because of to our inability to run our aging filters to waste and that we had less than desirable levels in our storage tanks, the turbidity in the distribution system had reached 2.3 NTU's. (1.0 NTU triggers a boil water notice) We immediately reached out to the OCDOH who helped get the message out to the community.

We had a full replacement of the conduit serving the pretreatment building. We will be installing phase monitors and connecting them to the current callout box to prevent this from happening again. We are in communication with the DEC to restock grass fed carp to help naturally remove algae from the reservoir. P&D has reached out to Maryland Biochemical about a solar powered sonic algae eliminator to replace the costly and potentially hazardous copper sulfate we had been previously using to treat the water with as well. We have also updated SOPs, maintenance routines and replenished our supplies.

Our operators and engineers, in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Health worked diligently to resolve this issue in order to get the system back into compliance as quickly as possible. Although more work will continue to prevent this situation from happening again, recent levels have been reliably below established standards.

For more information, please contact the Village of Goshen Department of Public Works at 845-294-6288 or by mail at Village of Goshen, 276 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924.

Or you may also contact the Orange County Department of Health at 845-291-2331.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. As a reminder the GoGoshen App is the fastest way to receive pertinent information and updates.*

This notice is being sent to you by Village of Goshen.

Public Water System ID#: 3503528

Violation ID # 2024 777

Date distributed: 10/17/24