**Public Notification for Total Trihalomethane Exceedance**
**Village of Stillwater**
**(January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013)**

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

We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water. Each calendar quarter samples are collected and analyzed to determine the levels of Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes. Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes are a byproduct of drinking water disinfection, which is needed to kill harmful organisms. An average of four quarterly samples is used to determine compliance with the New York State public drinking water standard.

In samples collected between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2013 the average level of Trihalomethanes was 87.5 ug/L. This level exceeds the New York State public drinking water standards of 80 ug/L. Exceedance of the standards is not an immediate health hazard, but indicates that actions should be taken by the supplier of water to reduce contaminant levels and lower the potential for long term exposure.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. An analysis of the data for Stillwater Village showed that the estimated exposure during the time period when levels were elevated is at least 600 times lower than the lowest exposure level known to cause adverse health effects in animals. Some people may wish to take additional practical measures which will reduce their exposure. Individuals could use bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

Stillwater Village purchases treated drinking water from the Saratoga County Water Authority. Disinfection byproduct formation is dependent on the levels of natural organic matter in the water, water age in the distribution system, pH, temperature, and the free chlorine residual, as well as other factors.

New York State and federal drinking water regulations require that standard health effects information be distributed whenever a drinking water standard is violated. This information is presented below. If you have further questions or concerns you can contact the New York State Department of Health Glens Falls District Office at 518-793-3893. Additional information is available on the Environmental Protection Agency website at http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr/dbp.html.

## Health Notification Language

### Trihalomethanes

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. Chlorine reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection 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. 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 who drank 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 dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane 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.