

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Glens Falls District Office  
77 Mohican Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
518-793-3893

October 10, 2013

Mayor & Village Board  
Stillwater Village  
Box 507 School St.  
Stillwater, NY 12170

Re: Stillwater Village, PWS ID #4500171  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013 TTHM & HAA5 MCL Violations (Violation #2014-4780 & 2014-4779)

Dear Sir/Madam:

Based on a review of Trihalomethane (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) data submitted to and reviewed by this office, it has been determined that the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) has been exceeded for TTHMs and HAA5s in the Stillwater Village water supply during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2013.

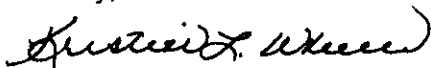
Compliance with the TTHM and HAA5 MCLs is based on a running annual arithmetic average, calculated quarterly, using the quarterly averages of all samples collected at the point of maximum retention. The MCL for TTHMs is 80 microgram per liter (ug/l) and for HAA5s is 60 ug/l. A review of Stillwater Village data indicates a running annual average for TTHMs of 121 ug/l and for HAA5s of 102 ug/l for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013.

Public notification must be performed when an MCL exceedance occurs. Enclosed is information on the public notification requirements and required health effects language regarding Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. Public notification must be performed within 30 days of the date of this letter, and continue quarterly until the running annual averages no longer exceed the MCL. When you have performed the required public notification, a completed copy of the attached Public Notification and Certification Form must be submitted to this office. These violations must also be included in your 2013 Water Quality Report, which must be distributed to your consumers by May 31, 2014.

Disinfection byproduct formation is dependent on the temperature, pH, chlorine residual, chlorine contact time and the availability of organic matter in the water. Please contact Aaron Koonsman of the Glens Falls District Office to discuss compliance options.

If you have any additional questions about this Notice of Violation, please contact me at (518) 793-3893 or [klw06@nyhealth.gov](mailto:klw06@nyhealth.gov).

Sincerely,



Kristine L. Wheeler, P.E.  
Drinking Water Program Supervisor  
Glens Falls District Office  
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Gabalski, NYSDOH GFDO  
Ms. O'Connell/Mr. Koonsman, NYSDOH GFDO (electronically)

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. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State.

Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

**Public Notification for Total Trihalomethane & Haloacetic Acid Exceedance  
Village of Stillwater  
(July 1, 2013 – September 30, 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 Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids 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 standards.

The average level of Trihalomethanes was 121 micrograms per liter (ug/l) during the third quarter of 2013 (July 1-September 30, 2013). The average level of Haloacetic Acids was 102 ug/l during the same time period. These levels exceed the New York State public drinking water standard of 80 ug/L for Trihalomethanes and 60 ug/l for Haloacetic Acids. 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.

### **Haloacetic Acids**

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids 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 tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of haloacetic acids 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,

New York State Department of Health  
Public Notification for Community Water Systems

Community Water System Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Water System Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PWS ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

The community water system named above hereby confirms that the required Public Notification documents have been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given).

Certified by: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please indicate how your report was distributed to your customers:

\_\_\_\_\_ Public Notification was distributed to bill-paying customers by mail.

\_\_\_\_\_ Public Notification was distributed to bill-paying customers by direct delivery (please specify the direct delivery method used).

\_\_\_\_\_ Hand delivered.

\_\_\_\_\_ Published in local paper (i.e., *Penny Saver*) that was directly delivered or mailed to all bill-paying customers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Published in local municipal newsletter that was directly delivered or mailed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ System does not have bill-paying customers.

For systems serving at least 100,000 persons, in addition to distributing your report using the methods described above, your Public Notification must also be posted on the Internet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Public Notification is posted on the Internet at www. \_\_\_\_\_

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Please indicate what "Good Faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods as recommended by the New York State Department of Health.

\_\_\_\_\_ Posting the Public Notification on the Internet at www. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing the Public Notification to postal patrons within the service area.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advertising the availability of the Public Notification in the news media.

\_\_\_\_\_ Publication of the Public Notification in a local newspaper.

\_\_\_\_\_ Posting the Public Notification in public places (attach a list of locations).

\_\_\_\_\_ Delivery of multiple copies to single-bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large private employers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Delivery to community organizations.