

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Warrensburg Water District– NY5600112

### WARRENSBURG WD WATER EXCEEDS COPPER ACTION LEVEL

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

Every six months, we sample water at consumers' taps for lead and copper. Lead and copper are not present in our well water, but can be leached from lead pipes, copper plumbing and lead solder in peoples' homes. Six of the forty samples collected show that copper was detected at or above the regulatory action level of 1.3 milligrams per Liter (mg/L). The regulatory action level is based on the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of results. This means that if more than 10% of the samples exceed the action level, steps must be taken to address the problem. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for samples collected in December 2010 was exceeded by the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead level which was below the lead action level of .015 mg/L.

During the past six months we have been conducting a study, collecting water data from the three well fields and the distribution system. This study, which is being conducted with the assistance of the NYS DOH and our Engineer, is intended to help us understand how each well impacts different sections of the Town's water district. We have been running the water system without any corrosion control treatment for the last six months so that we can identify the corrosive parameters in the water from each well and how far the effects extend into the distribution system. The data is now being analyzed and we will work with our Engineer to implement any recommendations to reduce the copper levels. .

### HEALTH EFFECTS OF COPPER IN DRINKING WATER

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Copper works its way into the water by dissolving from copper pipes in the household plumbing. The longer water stands idle in the pipes, the more likely copper will dissolve into the water. Thus, anytime the water has not been used for more than six hours, such as first thing in the morning or upon arriving home from work, it should be cleared from the pipes before being used for drinking or cooking. **Because copper gets into the drinking water from household plumbing, it is recommended that you run the cold water faucet until you can feel the water getting colder - usually 30 to 60 seconds - prior to using the water for drinking, cooking or preparing baby formula.**

**For more information, please contact Richard Galusha, Superintendent of Public Works at 518-623-9511 or Mike Hallock at the New York State Department of Health at 518-793-3893.**

*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.*

This notice is being provided to you by the Warrensburg Water District.

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