

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020***  
***Vails Grove Cooperative, Inc.***  
***Vail Boulevard, Peach Lake, Brewster, NY***  
***(Public Water Supply ID# 3903654)***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Vails Grove Cooperative, Inc. 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, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 us at 914-669-5100. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly board meetings held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

**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.

Our water source is from three subterranean bedrock wells (each at an approximate depth of 300 feet) located near the pump house at the North end of Vail's Lakeshore Drive. The water is pumped from the wells into two (2) 25,000 gallon storage (50,000 gallon total) tanks after chlorination and then pumped to the homes and Pavilion of the Vail's Grove community at between 70 and 80 pounds of pressure per square inch.

In 2003, the Department of Health completed a Source Water Assessment Summary and Final report regarding the three wells at Vail's Grove. The full report is available at the Vail's Grove Office should you wish to read it.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds. The water in your system is tested for total coliform bacteria on a monthly basis with no positive detections. The attached table 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 Putnam County Health Department at (845) 278-6130.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha	No	7/28/2020	5.40	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	No	7/28/2020	4.63	pCi/L	0	50 *	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions.
Combined Radium 226, 228	No	7/28/2020	1.31	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	No	7/28/2020	5.45	ug/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	12/16/2020	2.66	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper **	No	2019	0.035	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium	No	2019	0.119	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate	No	2019	20.7	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring.
Chloride	No	2019	118	mg/L	n/a	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sodium	No	2019	29.1	mg/L	n/a	See Health Effects ***	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Alkalinity	No	2019	576	mg/L	n/a	n/a	
Calcium	No	2019	79.7	mg/L	n/a	n/a	
Magnesium	No	2019	20.8	mg/L	n/a	n/a	
Iron	No	2019	12	ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring.
Zinc	No	2019	0.020	mg/L	n/a	5	Naturally occurring. Mining waste.
Hardness	No	2019	285	mg/L	n/a	n/a	

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids	No	7/28/2020	1.50	ug/L	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	7/28/2020	6.96	ug/L	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

**Footnotes:**

\* The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of 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. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

\*\* The State considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

\*\*\* Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

**Definitions:**

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

**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).

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – A measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Vail's Grove Cooperative, Inc. 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2020, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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).

### **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**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions.