

2017 Annual Water Quality Report

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Water System

486 Bedford Road
Armonk, NY 10512

(Public Water Supply ID# 5930011)

To comply with State and Federal regulations, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary annually issues a report describing the quality of our 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 concerns about our drinking water, please contact Dn. Levon Altiparmakian, Operations Manager at (914) 273-0200. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

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 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 Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. The water provided by St. Nersess is supplied by (2) two Groundwater wells located on the seminary grounds. The Groundwater Wells are disinfected with sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) and pumped directly in to the system. In 2017 our water system serves approximately 15 residents.

The NYS DOH has not completed a source water assessment for this system, when this the NYS DOH completes the assessment we will make this information available to you.

Facts And Figures

In 2017 the water system treated and supplied approximately 371,000 gallons of water which equals 1016 gallons a day.

Are There Contaminants In Our Drinking Water?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below 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, may be 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), <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> or the Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000, <http://www.westchester.gov/health>.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

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).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

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

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Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Detected Contaminants. We test for a number of contaminants. The tables show any concentration above its minimum detection limit (MDL). If we can detect a contaminant, it does not mean that it is above the MCL or that we need to take action.

(TABLE 1) LIST OF DETECTED SUBSTANCES

Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average & Range)	Unit Measurement	MCL G	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source
Inorganic							
Chlorine, Free	no	1/1 - 12/31/17	0.61 0.38 – 1.40	mg/L	4	N/A	Water treatment additive used for disinfection
Barium	no	11/01/17	0.059	mg/L	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	no	11/01/17	0.002	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring
Chloride	no	11/01/17	55	mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sodium ¹	no	11/01/17	19	mg/L	N/A	See Footnote 1	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination.
Sulfate	no	11/01/17	37	mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Color	No	11/01/17	5 Units	Units	N/A	15	Large quantities of organic chemicals, inadequate treatment, high disinfectant demand and the potential for production of excess amounts of disinfectant by-products such as trihalomethanes, the presence of metals such as copper, iron and manganese; Natural color may be caused by decaying leaves, plants, and soil organic matter
Radioactive							
Beta particle and photon activity from man-made radionuclides	no	2014-2015	4.35 (4.22 - 4.47)	pCi/L	0	See Footnote*	Decay of natural deposits and human-made emissions
Gross alpha activity (including radium-226 but excluding radon and uranium)	no	2014-2015	1.50 (0.23- 1.27)	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium-226 and 228	no	2014-2015	0.65 (0.36 - 0.93)	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	no	2014-2015	7.86 (7.77 - 7.95)	µg/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

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

¹ 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.

(Table 2) Detected Lead & Copper

Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average & Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Sites Tested	Sites Exceeding AL	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source
Copper ¹	no	05/09/17	.06 0 – 26	µg/L	1300	5	0	1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead ²	no	05/09/17	0	µg/L	0	5	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

¹ This concentration presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested for copper in 2017. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. This value was 17 µg/L. The action level was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

² This concentration represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested for lead in 2017. The action level for lead of 15µg/L was not was not exceeded at the 90th percentile. This value was 0.0 µg/L.

*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. St. Nersess is committed to 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 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>.

(Table 3) Detected Disinfection by Products

Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Max & Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source
Tri-Halomethanes ¹	no	8/22/17	8.82 8.14-8.82	µg/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Halo Acetic Acids ²	no	8/22/17	0	ug/l	N/A	60	

¹ This level represents the locational running annual average and the range of the following contaminants: monochloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, dibromoacetic acid.

² This level represents the locational running annual average and the range of the following contaminants: chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, bromoform.

What does this information mean?

As you can see by the tables, 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.

Monitoring Violations:

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2017, we did not collect for Disinfection by Products during the approved sample period as stated in our **Water System Comprehensive Monitoring Plan**. However, these tests were collected on August 22, 2018 and the results as shown in (Table 3) were below the level allowed by the State.

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).

Information on Lead:

It should be noted that the action level for lead was not exceeded in any of the five (5) samples collected. 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. St. Nersess is committed to 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 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>.

Protecting Against Cross-Connections:

Under Part 5 Section 5-1.31 of the New York State Sanitary Code, the New York State Department of Health requires the St. Nersess Water System to have a Cross Connection Control Program and to educate its residents in preventing cross connections in their homes.

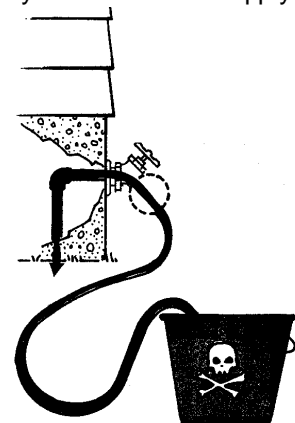
Without proper protection devices, something as useful as your garden hose has the potential to poison your home's water supply. In fact, over half of the nation's cross-connections involve unprotected garden hoses.

What is a "cross-connection?"

A cross-connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement, which can allow your drinking water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

What is "backflow" ?

It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to a change in pressures, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.



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A potentially hazardous cross-connection occurs every time someone uses a garden hose sprayer to apply insecticides or herbicides to their lawn. Another cross-connection occurs when someone uses their garden hose to clear a stoppage in their sewer line.

Without a backflow prevention device between your hose and hose bibb (spigot or outside faucet), the contents of the hose and anything it is connected to can backflow into the piping system and contaminate your drinking water.

This hazardous situation sometimes can affect more than a single home. In 1977, an entire town in North Dakota had to be rationed drinking water from National Guard water trucks while the town's water distribution system was flushed and disinfected following contamination by DDT. Investigation determined that two residents spraying DDT had made direct cross-connections to their homes. A backflow condition had occurred, sucking the DDT through the home piping systems and out into the town's water distribution system.

Backflows due to cross-connections are serious plumbing problems. They can cause sickness and even death. However, they can be avoided by the use of proper protection devices. Each spigot at your home should have a hose-bibb vacuum breaker installed. This is a simple, inexpensive device which can be purchased at any plumbing or hardware store. Installation is as easy as attaching your garden hose to a spigot.

Now you know how cross connections can occur and how to avoid and prevent them. If you know of a cross connection in your plumbing and need assistance in correcting the hazard, please contact this office immediately. For more information about cross connections, you may contact the Westchester County Department of Health, 145 Huguenot Street, New York 10801. (914) 813- 5000

Water Conservation:

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.

How Can I Conserve My Water?

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. Repair it 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.

In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we continually making necessary improvements that will benefit our community. We ask that all our residents help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

**PLEASE SHARE THIS REPORT WITH OTHERS!
TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COPIES, CALL THE ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY AT
(914) 273-0200**