

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Bureau of Water Supply Protection  
Public Notice Certification Form

System name: Water District # 1

PWSID no: 2235001

Monitoring period to which the notice applies (e.g., June – Sept. 2017): Oct-Dec 2024

Date NOV was received: 01/06/25

Date PN was provided to consumers: 01/06/25

The water system certifies that the public notification was provided to each customer within 30 days of receiving the notice of violation:

- The maximum contaminant levels and the definitions of where contaminants are found.
- An explanation of the health effects.
- Steps the water supply is making to comply with NOV.
- Contact information for your water utility.

Certified by:

Name Novina P. Green

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Title Town Clerk

Phone # 315-639-6266 Date 01/06/25

Notice was distributed by mail or other direct delivery. Specify other direct delivery methods: \_\_\_\_\_

electronic mail

posting the notice on the Internet at www.townofbrownville.com

posting the notice in public places (attach a list of locations) - Town clerk board, entry way of office

delivery of multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large employers

other methods



Department  
of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 31, 2024

Mr. Richard Lane, Town Supervisor  
Town of Brownville  
16431 Star School Road  
Dexter, NY 13634

RE: Notice of Violation – Town of Brownville WD #1 (PWS #2235001)  
Total Trihalomethanes MCL Exceedance

Dear Mr. Lane:

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes has been exceeded in the Town of Brownville WD #1's distribution system for the four calendar quarters ending December 31, 2024. During that time, the locational running annual average (LRAA) for total trihalomethanes was 88.1 micrograms per liter. The MCL for trihalomethanes is 80 micrograms per liter.

Consequently, and in accordance with Section 5-1.52 Table 13 of the Sanitary Code, you are required to make public notification within 30 days. The violation requires Tier 2 notification (see Section 5-1.78, NYS Sanitary Code) and includes direct mail delivery to each bill-paying customer in WD #1. An example notification is enclosed. The notice must also be included in your Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR).

**Following direct mail delivery of the public notification to each bill-paying customer, send a copy of the notification with distribution date to the Watertown District Office. A certification form is enclosed for your use.**

Please contact the writer at (315) 785-2277 if you have any questions or would like to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Tracy, P.E.  
Professional Engineer 1

encl.

cc: Brandon Cooney – District Director  
Claude Curley, P.E. – District Engineer  
Roy Gilchrist – Town of Brownville  
Justin McCarger – Town of Brownville

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TOWN OF BROWNVILLE WD #1 DRINKING WATER**

The Town of Brownville WD #1 exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 80 ug/L for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) present in drinking water. During the four calendar quarters ending December 31, 2024 the running annual average (RAA) for total trihalomethanes was 88.1 micrograms per liter, respectively. This level is based on a locational running annual average of quarterly samples. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, where these contaminants came from, and what is being done.

### **What should I do?**

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. **No immediate action is required or necessary.**

### **Where do TTHM's come from?**

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes 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 trihalomethanes 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, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. 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.

Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water is beneficial to public health.

### **What happened and what is being done?**

The combination of the quantity of disinfectant needed and the amount of naturally occurring organic material in the incoming water resulted in a level of TTHM's in excess of the MCL. In order to kill disease-causing microorganisms, water treatment regulations require a certain contact time for the chlorine and water before it enters the distribution system. Town of Brownville personnel are currently working with the Department of Health to identify solutions to this problem.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Brownville's Water Operator, Mr. Roy Gilchrist at (315) 639-6266 or the New York State Department of Health, Watertown District Office at (315) 785-2277.