



# Onondaga County Health Department

J. Ryan McMahon II, County Executive  
Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health

John H. Mulroy Civic Center · 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202



Division of Environmental Health  
Lisa Letteney, Director

Bureau of Public Health Engineering  
Phone (315) 435-6600  
Fax (315) 435-6606

November 19, 2021

Mayor & Village Board  
Village of Elbridge  
210 West Main St.  
Elbridge, NY 13060

Re: Treatment Technique (TT) Violation  
Raw Water Turbidity Exceedance

Dear Mayor & Village Board:

This letter is to notify you of a Treatment Technique (TT) violation for the Village of Elbridge. On November 12, 2021, the Skaneateles Lake water supply exceeded the allowable limit of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) for raw water turbidity levels at a filtration avoidance system [NYS Sanitary Code Sub-part 5-1.30(c)(d)].

Enclosed are copies of the Public Health Notice (PHN) and the Certification of Public Notification Requirements form. The PHN must be posted on the Village of Elbridge's website by December 12, 2021. In addition, the PHN or a notification that the PHN is available on the website must be mailed to all bill-paying customers by December 12, 2021. Please complete the Certification of Public Notification Requirements form and return it along with a Post Office receipt and a copy of the PHN as it appears on the website within 10 days.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in providing safe potable water to the public. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 315-435-6600.

Very truly yours,

Shawn M. Rush, P.E., Public Health Engineer III  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

SMR/s  
Enclosures  
Cc: John Strepelis, NYS DOH  
Brad Milton, Operator

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### High Turbidity Levels in City of Syracuse Skaneateles Lake Source

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. At this time there is no public health concern. This violation was due to a rise in turbidity at our source, Skaneateles Lake. The drinking water regulations require us to mail this notice to our customers when this type of violation occurs in an effort to ensure the public is informed on drinking water issues. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

**A drinking water standard was violated.** Your water is routinely monitored for turbidity (cloudiness) to determine if it is effectively being treated. The results of samples collected from Skaneateles Lake on November 12, 2021 showed turbidity levels above the maximum allowable standard of 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). During this period the turbidity reached a maximum level of 13.71 NTU. Because of this elevated level of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may have contained disease-causing organisms.

#### What happened? What was done?

The turbidity increased in Skaneateles Lake due to high winds stirring up sediments on the lake bottom. The turbidity level remained above the maximum level of 5 NTU for approximately 4 hours on November 12, 2021. The water is treated with UV light, which provides a secondary level of disinfection against potentially harmful microbiological contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. The levels of UV intensity remained high ensuring the UV systems' effectiveness before, during, and after the violation.

#### What should I do?

This incident constituted a treatment technique violation as specified in the New York State Sanitary Code 10 NYCRR Section 5-1.30(c) and (d). This was not an emergency and no action is required on your part; however, as our customer you have a right to know the circumstances. There is no reason to stop using the water supplied to your home/business as a result of this violation. You are not required to boil your water. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

State and federal drinking water rules require public notification that includes the following language: *Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.*

The symptoms above have many causes that are unrelated to this issue. If you are concerned that you have the above symptoms, particularly if they are severe or persistent, you should seek medical advice. While there is no reason to believe this wind-driven turbidity incident introduced any microbiological contaminants into the drinking water, people with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

For more information, please contact the Village of Elbridge Water Department at 315-689-3404 or the Onondaga County Health Department at 315-435-6600.

*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. Landlords and building managers responsible for multi-family dwellings—please post this notice in a conspicuous place.*

This notice is being sent to you by the Village of Elbridge.

State Water System ID#: NY3304312