Dear Customer-

Water quality is essential to all of us - and the quality of our water affects the quality of our lives. The Erie County Water Authority is committed to providing its customers safe, high-quality drinking water. That is why the Authority maintains a rigorous quality control program and continues to invest substantial financial resources to improve our two treatment facilities, distribution system and nationally recognized water quality lab. Our water is constantly monitored and tested. The water produced and delivered by the Authority far exceeds the most demanding water quality standards currently mandated by federal and state water quality regulations, and last year was no exception.

During the last five years, the Authority has significantly enhanced the quality of life throughout Western New York by meeting the growing need for clean, safe water in the communities we serve. As we enter a new year, we are confident that the Authority has positioned itself to continue to achieve its mission of providing a high-quality product and reliable, cost-effective service at an affordable rate to the more than 146,000 people that rely on us everyday, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Authority’s current residential rate of $2.35 per 1,000 gallons of high-quality water for residential, commercial, and industrial use in 32 municipalities throughout Western New York.

The Authority's current residential rate of $2.35 per 1,000 gallons of high-quality water in the community's we serve.

In an effort to make the most efficient use of our water resources, the Authority encourages customers to promote the following water conservation measures to preserve our most precious resource:

- Use the clothes washer for full loads only.
- Instead of letting the water run in the sink when you want a cold drink, keep a cup or pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers. A shower uses about 10 gallons a minute. Time yourself.
- Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in your tank. If the color shows up in your toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak that is costing you money and wasting water.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 20 gallons a day.
- Sweep outside with a broom, not a hose.
- Only water your lawn when necessary. If the grass springs back after you step on it, then it does not need to be watered.

Conservation Tips

Erie County Water Authority - 2002 Water Quality Report
Who sets and enforces drinking water standards?

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the main federal law that ensures the quality of your drinking water. Under the SDWA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. In New York, the State Health Department enforces the EPA regulations and often makes them even more stringent.

The EPA sets standards for approximately 150 regulated contaminants in drinking water. For each of these contaminants, EPA sets a legal limit, called a maximum contaminant level (MCL). EPA regulations specify strict testing and reporting requirements for each contaminant. Water suppliers may not provide water that doesn’t meet these standards. Water that does meet these standards is safe to drink.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

How is my water treated?

The Authority’s two water treatment facilities use the conventional filtration method. At the plants, water undergoes the following treatment steps:

- RAW water flows by gravity through a large intake tunnel to the raw water building.
- Pumps draw the water through traveling screens to prevent large objects such as driftwood and fish from entering the system.
- A chemical, polycyanoalumide chloride, is added to the water, which causes suspended particles in the water to clump together.
- Flocc particles then settle to the bottom of large sedimentation basins.
- The water is filtered through layers of anthracite, sand, and gravel, to remove any remaining particles.
- Chlorine is added for disinfection to kill bacteria. Small amounts of fluoride are added to help prevent tooth decay.
- Caustic soda is added to stabilize the alkalinity of the water and prevent corrosion in home plumbing.
- Powdered activated carbon is added in summer months to help remove unpleasant tastes and odors.
- Water is temporarily stored in clearwells or storage tanks before it is pumped to the public.
- High service pumps deliver the clean water through more than 2,500 miles of pipeline to homes and businesses. The Authority has 24 pumping stations and 34 water storage tanks with a capacity of fifty-five million gallons each.
- Water is rigorously treated then sent through distribution systems and tests for organic and inorganic compounds. All results are sent to the New York State and Erie County Health Departments to confirm that the Authority meets all regulations.
- The Authority employs 263 dedicated professionals who continuously participate in educational training, licensing programs, and professional development to develop their skills to the highest possible levels.

These people live in your communities, are your friends and drink the same water you do. No wonder why they are committed to making sure that your water is pure, safe and affordable.

How is my water tested and who is responsible for making sure it’s safe?

The Authority conducts more than 70,000 tests annually to make sure all federal and state drinking water regulations are met. Our water is tested 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assure the delivery of safe, clean water to every customer’s tap.

The Authority operates three New York State-certified laboratories, one located at each water treatment plant and a nationally recognized water quality laboratory in Lackawanna, which contains state of the art testing equipment.

The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) certifies this laboratory. NELAP is a national accrediting body, made up of state, federal, and commercial laboratory accreditation officials, that set strict standards for public and commercial laboratories across the country.

Highly trained water treatment plant operators perform hourly tests at each phase of the treatment process. Our professional water quality staff also conducts 200 samples a month from the distribution system and tests for organic and inorganic compounds.

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Cryptosporidium and Giardia analysis

The Authority’s Water Quality Laboratory is recognized as one of the most well equipped labs in North America that is capable of testing for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. In fact, our lab is one of only 12 labs in the country to pass the EPA’s Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for the analysis of Cryptosporidium under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Currently, the Authority tests for the protozoa for several public water suppliers throughout the country. In fact, New York City recently signed a four-year, $1.2 million contract with the Authority to conduct Giardia and Cryptosporidium analysis. These microscopic protozoa are widely present in the environment and most surface water sources throughout the United States. They can cause intestinal illnesses if ingested. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the illnesses within a couple of weeks. However, both can be serious for people with weak immune systems such as those undergoing chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients and people with Crohn’s disease or HIV infection.

In 2002, the Authority analyzed 54 water samples for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. No positive samples were detected in the Authority’s treated water supply.

The Authority encourages immune compromised individuals to consult their physicians regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Both protozoa must be ingested to cause disease.

Is the public informed if the water is not safe to drink?

EPA regulations mandate the Authority notify its customers if water is not safe to drink. Water is not safe to drink when testing reveals that contaminants in the water exceed national limits for contaminant levels. In the unlikely event that water becomes unsafe to drink, the Authority will issue a “boil water order” and notify the public by newspaper, television and radio announcements.

ECWA’s test results for 2002

The Authority’s water system operated under “NO VARIANCE OR EXEMPTION” from any federal or state regulatory requirement. In addition, there were “NO VIOLATIONS” of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. As a matter of fact, the high quality of the Authority’s water either “MEET” or “EXCEEDED” all federal and state water quality and water treatment standards.

To comply with EPA mandated CFR requirements, Water Quality data tables of detected regulated and unregulated contaminants are attached. More information regarding all substances tested for but not detected can be obtained by calling the Customer Service Department at 849-8448.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from two sources. The Authority’s Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant in Tonawanda, which is merging its system with the Authority to supply the southern part of Erie County and communities in Cattaraugus County. The Van de Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the “mighty” Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants serve more than a half million people in Western New York. In each plant, the water is rigorously treated then sent through the Authority’s extensive distribution system until it arrives at your tap; fresh, pure and ready for you to enjoy.

Should I buy bottled water or a Home Filter System to be safe?

No! Your water is extremely safe to drink and very inexpensive. The Authority far exceeds even the most stringent governmental standards. Your water is rigorously treated and is fluctuated to prevent tooth decay. This is all provided to you for only $2.35 per 1,000 gallons.

The bottled water industry is far less regulated than public water suppliers. The standards which govern the quality of the Authority’s water, and which are established by the EPA and enforced by the New York State Health Department, are more stringent than the regulations that govern the bottled water industry and are enforced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Water treatment devices also are not needed to make your water safe. In fact, if not properly maintained, the devices may cause an adverse affect on your water quality.

In addition, the average cost for a 12-ounce bottle of water is $1.00 and a home filter system can cost several hundred dollars plus maintenance expenses.

The Authority’s customers spend very little money to receive a safe and affordable supply of water. The average homeowner spends less than 0.5% of his income on water.

System Improvements

During the past year, the Authority completed several system improvements on time and under budget in its effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply and to improve service delivery.

Improvements included more than $1 million for heightened security measures, the design and construction of 15,000 linear feet of pipeline, the design of two new pump stations, rehabilitating the interiors and exteriors of two water storage tanks and the installation of 8,000 new meters in the City of Tonawanda, which is merging its system with the Authority.

The implementation of the Authority’s Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system continues to expand to increase efficiency in the distribution system.

SCADA is a computer system that monitors all of the Authority’s pump stations and storage tanks. During the past year, the Authority completed the SCADA installation at its Van de Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda. This project has further improved efficiency by eliminating manual controls and using on-line monitors for automated control of plant operations. Internal operational upgrades were also made at our Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant, including electrical system improvements and the renovation of raw water traveling screens.

The Authority will continue to maintain its aggressive system improvement program. The 2003 budget contains a $17 million capital-spendng plan for upgrades to the Authority’s system, including line replacements in Lackawanna, Cheektowaga and Amherst, construction of a new transmission main and pump station in Clarence, and construction of a new pump station in Lancaster. The Authority will also construct a new transmission main and a new pump station in the City of Tonawanda.

More Efficient Service

The Authority continues to pursue regional opportunities that will achieve its mission of providing safe, clean, affordable drinking water to the residents of Erie County. Local governments are realizing that joining the Authority’s system makes economic sense for them and their residents.

Last year, the Village of Lancaster decided to merge its water system with the Authority and get out of the water business. In January, City of Tonawanda voters overwhelmingly passed a public referendum to transfer ownership of the City’s system to the Authority.

Both of these consolidations will result in more efficient service delivery and cheaper rates for Village and City customers.

Questions?

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Thank you for allowing the Erie County Water Authority to continue to provide you with quality drinking water. The Authority is committed to providing you with information about your water supply. Our customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

Any member of the public may participate in decisions affecting the quality of water. The Board of Commissioners at the Authority ultimately makes those decisions on behalf of our customers. Board meetings take place every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m., in the board meeting room, Erie County Water Authority, 350 Ellicott Square Building, 255 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203. Occasionally a board meeting is rescheduled. Call 849-8448 in advance for updated board meeting information.
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The EPA sets standards for approximately 150 regulated contaminants in drinking water. For each of these contaminants, EPA sets a legal limit, called a maximum contaminant level (MCL). EPA regulations specify strict testing and reporting requirements for each contaminant. Water suppliers may not provide water that doesn’t meet these standards. Water that does meet these standards is safe to drink.

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These microscopic protozoa are widely present in the environment and most surface water sources throughout the United States. They can cause intestinal illnesses if ingested. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the illness within a couple of weeks. However, both can be serious for people with weak immune systems such as those undergoing chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients and people with Crohn’s disease or HIV infection.

In 2002, the Authority analyzed 54 water samples for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. No positive samples were detected in the Authority’s treated water supply.

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Both of these consolidations will result in more efficient service delivery and cheaper rates for Village and City customers.

Where does my water come from?
Your water comes from two sources. The Authority’s Van De Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda. This plant has four production units that are efficiently operated to provide high-quality drinking water. In addition, the Authority also has a second treatment facility, the Authority’s Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant in Wheatfield.

The Authority’s water system includes 19 major water treatment facilities and 10 holding and storage facilities. Each of the 19 treatment plants has advanced water treatment facilities and processes that provide you with high-quality drinking water.

For additional information on Cryptosporidiosis or Giardiasis, please contact the Erie County Health Department at 888-BERLIA.

Is the public informed if the water is not safe to drink?
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To comply with EPA mandated CCR requirements, Water Quality data tables of detected regulated and unregulated contaminants are attached. The tables summarize test results for the past year and list measured standards in maximum contaminant levels (MCL). The EPA is responsible for establishing MCL standards. Each detected regulated contaminant fell well below the MCL level allowed by the EPA. For your convenience, important terms and abbreviations are defined throughout the data tables. More information regarding all substances tested for but not detected can be obtained by calling the Customer Service Department at 849-9849.

Could I buy bottled water or a Home Filter System to be safe?
No! Your water is extremely safe to drink and very inexpensive. The Authority far exceeds even the most stringent governmental standards. Your water is rigorously treated and is fluoridated to prevent tooth decay. All this is provided to you for only $2.25 per 1,000 gallons.

The bottled water industry is far less regulated than public water suppliers. The standards which govern the quality of the Authority’s water, and which are established by the EPA and enforced by the New York State Health Department, are more stringent than the regulations that govern the bottled water industry and are enforced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Water treatment devices also are not needed to make your water safe. In fact, if not properly maintained, the devices may cause an adverse affect on your water quality.

In addition, the average cost for a 12-ounce bottle of water is $1.00 and a home filter system can cost several hundred dollars plus maintenance expenses.

The Authority’s customers spend very little money to receive clean water, while entrepreneurs try to sell to consumers with fancy packaging and advertisements.

System Improvements
During the past year, the Authority completed several system improvements on time and under budget in its effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply and to improve service delivery.

Improvements included more than $1 million for heightened security measures, the design and construction of 15,000 linear feet of pipeline, the design of two new pump stations, refurbishing the interiors and exteriors of two water storage tanks and the installation of 8,000 new meters in the City of Tonawanda, which is merging its system with the Authority.

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The Authority will continue to maintain its aggressive system improvement program. The 2003 budget contains a $17 million capital-spending plan for upgrades to the Authority’s system, including line replacements in Lackawanna, Dektawoga and Amherst, construction of a new transmission main and pump station in Clarence, and construction of a new pump station in Lancaster. The Authority will also construct a new transmission main and a new pump station in the City of Tonawanda.

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- Raw water moves by gravity through a large intake tunnel to the raw water building.
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- A chemical, polyaluminum chloride, is added to the water, which causes suspended particles in the water to clump together.
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- The water is filtered through layers of an anthracite, sand, and gravel filter, to remove any remaining particles.
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Cryptosporidium and Giardia analysis

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In 2002, the Authority analyzed 54 water samples for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. No positive samples were detected in the Authority’s treated water supply. The Authority encourages immunocompromised individuals to consult their physicians regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Both protozoa must be ingested to cause disease.

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Bottled water contains very small amounts of fluoride that are added to help prevent tooth decay. All this is provided to you for only $2.35 per 1,000 gallons.

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Improvements included more than $1 million for heightened security measures, the design and construction of 15,000 linear feet of pipeline, the design of two new pump stations, refurbishing the interiors and exteriors of two water storage tanks and the installation of 8,000 new meters in the City of Tonawanda, which is merging its system with the Authority.

The Authority continues to pursue regional opportunities that will result in regional improvements in service delivery. Two consolidations will result in the Authority’s extensive distribution system and tests for organic and inorganic compounds. All results are sent to the New York State and Erie County Health Departments to confirm that the Authority meets all regulations.

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These people live in your communities, are your friends and drink the same water you do. No wonder they are committed to making sure that your water is pure, safe and affordable.

Cryptosporidium and Giardia analysis

The Authority’s Water Quality Laboratory is recognized as one of the most well equipped labs in North America that is capable of testing for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. In fact, our lab is one of only 12 labs in the country to pass the EPA’s Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for the analysis of Cryptosporidium under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Currently, the Authority tests for the protozoa for several public water suppliers throughout the country. In fact, New York City recently signed a four-year, $1.2 million contract with the Authority to conduct Giardia and Cryptosporidium analysis. These microscopic protozoa are widely present in the environment and most surface water sources throughout the United States. They can cause intestinal illnesses if ingested. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the illnesses within a couple of weeks. However, both can be serious for people with weak immune systems such as those undergoing chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients and people with Crohn’s disease or HIV infection.

In 2002, the Authority analyzed 54 water samples for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. No positive samples were detected in the Authority’s treated water supply.

The Authority encourages immune compromised individuals to consult their physicians regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Both protozoa must be ingested to cause disease.

Is the public informed if the water is not safe to drink?

EPA regulations mandate the Authority notify its customers if water is not safe to drink. Water is not safe to drink when testing reveals that contaminants in the water exceed national limits for contaminant levels. In the unlikely event that water becomes unsafe to drink, the Authority will issue a “boil water order” and notify the public by newspaper, television and radio announcements.

ECWA’s test results for 2002

The Authority’s water system operated under "NO VARIANCE OR EXCEDED" from any federal or state regulatory requirement. In addition, there were “NO VIOLATIONS” of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. As a matter of fact, the high quality of the Authority’s water either "MET" OR “EXCEEDED” all federal and state water quality and water treatment standards.

To comply with EPA mandated CFR requirements, Water Quality data tables of detected regulated and unregulated contaminants are attached. The tables summarize test results for the past year and list measured standards in maximum contaminant levels (MCL).

More information regarding all substances tested for but not detected can be obtained by calling the Customer Service Department at 849-9484.

How does my water come from?

Your water comes from two sources. The Authority’s Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant in Tonawanda serves the two most western communities in Cattaraugus County. The Van de Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the "mighty" Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants serve more than a half million people in Western New York. In each plant, the water is rigorously treated then sent through the Authority’s extensive distribution system until it arrives at your tap; fresh, pure and ready for you to enjoy.

Questions?

If you would like additional copies of this report, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 849-9484 or email at info@ericawa.org.

Thank you for allowing the Erie County Water Authority to continue to provide you with quality drinking water. The Authority is committed to providing you with information about your water supply. Customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

Any member of the public may participate in decisions affecting the quality of water. The Board of Commissioners at the Authority ultimately makes those decisions on behalf of our customers. Board meetings take place every other Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., in the board meeting room, Erie County Water Authority, 350 Ellicott Square Building, 295 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203. Occasionally a board meeting is rescheduled. Call 849-9484 in advance for updated board meeting information.

System Improvements

Last year, the Village of Lancaster decided to merge its water system with the Authority and get out of the water business. In January, City of Tonawanda voters overwhelming passed a public referendum to transfer ownership of the City’s system to the Authority. Both of these consolidations will result in more efficient service delivery and cheaper rates for Village and City customers.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from two sources. The Authority’s Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant in the Town of Evans draws water from Lake Erie to supply the southern part of Erie County and communities in Cattaragus County. The Van de Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda draws water from the “mighty” Niagara River and services municipalities in northern Erie County. These two plants serve more than a half million people in Western New York. In each plant, the water is rigorously treated then sent through the Authority’s extensive distribution system until it arrives at your tap; fresh, pure and ready for you to enjoy.

System Improvements

During the past year, the Authority completed several system improvements on time and under budget in its effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply and to improve service delivery.

Improvements included more than $1 million for heightened security measures, the design and construction of 19,000 linear feet of pipeline, the design of two new pump stations, refurbishing the interiors and exteriors of two water storage tanks and the installation of 8,000 new meters in the City of Tonawanda, which is merging its system with the Authority.

The implementation of the Authority’s Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system technology continues to expand to increase efficiency in the distribution system. SCADA is a computer system that monitors all of the Authority’s pump stations and storage tanks. During the past year, the Authority completed the SCADA installation at its Van de Water Treatment Plant in Tonawanda. This project has further improved efficiency by eliminating manual controls and using on-line monitors for automated control of plant operations. Internal operational upgrades were also made at our Sturgeon Point Treatment Plant, including electrical system improvements and the renovation of raw water traveling screens.

The Authority will continue to maintain its aggressive system improvement program. The 2003 budget contains a $17 million capital-spendng plan for upgrades to the Authority’s system, including line repairs in Lackawanna, Cheektowaga and Amherst, construction of a new transmission main and pump station in Clarence, and construction of a new pump station in Lancaster. The Authority will also construct a new transmission main and a new pump station in the City of Tonawanda.

More Efficient Service

The Authority continues to pursue regional opportunities that will achieve its mission of providing safe, clean, affordable drinking water to the residents of Erie County. Local governments are realizing that joining the Authority’s system makes economic sense for them and their residents.

- Powdered activated carbon is added in summer months to help remove unpleasant tastes and odors.
- Water is temporarily stored in cleanwells or storage tanks before it is pumped to the public.
- High service pumps deliver the clean water through more than 2,500 miles of pipeline to homes and businesses. The Authority has 24 pumping stations and 34 water storage tanks with a capacity of fifty-five million gallons each.
Dear Customer -

The Board of Commissioners of the Erie County Water Authority are pleased to present our 2002 Water Quality Report. This report is a valuable resource that provides detailed information on the water quality at the tap of your home. It is an important document that reflects the commitment of the Authority to providing a high-quality product.

The water distribution system consists of over 1,900 miles of waterlines, 14,816 fire hydrants, 22,665 valves and 37 pumping plants. The Authority has positioned itself to continue to achieve its mission of providing a high-quality product and reliably delivered water of the highest quality at an affordable cost.

The Authority serves 300,000 residents and over 100,000 businesses in the City of Buffalo and the Town of Tonawanda. Our customer base is continually growing due to development in the Western New York area. The Erie County Water Authority was created by a special act of the New York State Legislature to ensure that the people of Erie County would have a safe, plentiful supply of water.
Dear Customer,

The Erie County Water Authority is committed to providing safe, clean water in the communities we serve. We pride ourselves on maintaining a rigorous quality control system as we strive to meet the growing need for distribution system and nationally recognized water quality standards. Water quality is essential to all of us—within homes, offices, and industry of Erie County would have a safe, plentiful supply of water for the future.

The Authority was created by a special act of the New York Legislature in 1953 to supply water to the City of Buffalo and the Towns of Amherst, Tonawanda, and Alden; to purchase water for the Water Authority; to improve water supply by acting as an agent or manager for water projects of the State of New York; to provide, purchase, maintain, and operate water distribution facilities; and to purchase, maintain, and operate water collection facilities.

The Authority provides water to a variety of communities including the City of Buffalo, the Towns of Amherst, Tonawanda, and Alden, and a number of other smaller communities and industrial plants across Western New York. It is why the Authority maintains a rigorous quality control system and conducts 25 billion pulses of water per year.

Non-Detected Contaminants

The following contaminants were not detected in EEWCA water in 2002 on the most recent year analyzed:

<table>
<thead>
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It is important to note that contaminants such as arsenic, benzene, and mercury can be harmful to the environment. The Authority tests water for contaminants such as lead and copper to ensure that the water is safe to drink. The Authority also conducts tests for radionuclides, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, nuclear power plant discharges, or leaching from nuclear fuel waste.

The Authority has developed a comprehensive Contaminants of Emerging Scientific Interest (CESI) Program to identify potential contaminants that could affect the water supply in the future. The CESI Program is designed to monitor emerging contaminants in water supplies and to develop strategies to manage these contaminants as they become a concern. The CESI Program includes a suite of monitoring methods and analytical techniques that are used to detect emerging contaminants in water samples.

Summary

The Authority is dedicated to providing safe, clean water to the communities it serves. We strive to maintain a rigorous quality control system and conduct tests for contaminants such as lead and copper to ensure that the water is safe to drink. The Authority also conducts tests for radionuclides, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, nuclear power plant discharges, or leaching from nuclear fuel waste. The Authority has developed a comprehensive Contaminants of Emerging Scientific Interest (CESI) Program to identify potential contaminants that could affect the water supply in the future. The CESI Program is designed to monitor emerging contaminants in water supplies and to develop strategies to manage these contaminants as they become a concern.

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