

Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility

70 Waterworks Road

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601



November 4, 2025

Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility Update on Elevated Sodium and Chloride Concentration and the Taste of the Water

The Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility continues to experience a salt front episode that began around the end of August which has caused an increase in sodium and chloride levels in the drinking water. The drought situation throughout the state has reduced freshwater flow in the Hudson River. The lower flow has allowed the salt front from the Atlantic Ocean to travel further up the river than usual. Storm surges that occur from tropical storms and hurricanes in the ocean are pushing the salt front even higher. These surges cause a rapid, large spike in sodium and chloride concentration that you can taste. Although we have had rain, it typically takes a couple of days to see a reduction in sodium and chloride levels.

Why does the water taste different?

There are several reasons why the water tastes different this summer and fall.

- **Salty Taste:** Elevated sodium and chloride levels due to the presence of the salt front make the water taste salty. The Hudson River is tidal, and the levels of sodium and chloride change multiple times a day.
- **Bleach Taste and Smell:** The river experienced a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) this summer. To address the toxin that is present in the algae, the water treatment plant adjusted the treatment process which included increasing the chlorine level. The increase in chlorine may make your water taste or smell like bleach.
- **Earthy or Musty Taste:** Algae can also produce compounds that make the water taste earthy or musty. These compounds are not harmful.
- **Metallic Taste:** Corrosion of pipes can create a metallic taste in water. During the water treatment process, we add an inhibitor to reduce the corrosion rate of pipes. Sometimes saltier water can increase this rate even with the inhibitor. Running your water until you feel a temperature change may improve the taste.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes, your water is safe to drink. If you are on restricted sodium diet you need to be aware that there is more sodium and chloride in the water than usual.

Sodium concentrations to date averaged to 133 milligrams per liter (mg/L) with a range of 49 to 310 mg/L. 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.

Chloride concentrations, at times, exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 250 mg/L. Concentrations ranged from 75 to 580 mg/L with an average of 229 mg/L. Chloride is essential for maintaining good health. Research has not conclusively demonstrated that human exposure to chloride itself causes adverse health effects, although exposure to high levels of certain chloride salts has been

associated with adverse health effects in humans. For example, high dietary intake of sodium chloride can be a contributing factor to high blood pressure, but this has been attributed mainly to the presence of sodium. The New York State standard for chloride is 250 milligrams per liter and is based on chloride's effects on the taste and odor of the water.

What is being done?

The water treatment facility is closely monitoring the salt front and the sodium and chloride concentrations. We do not know how long this event will continue because it is dependent on environmental factors and specifically the amount of rainfall received. We will notify you when conditions return to normal.

For more information, please contact Dottie DiNobile at 845-451-4173 or ddinobile@pokwater.com. The Poughkeepsies' Water Treatment Facility, Public Water System ID NY1302774, provides water to the following consecutive systems:

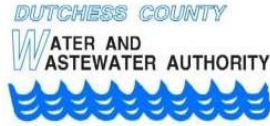
City of Poughkeepsie, PWS ID NY1330291

Town of Poughkeepsie, PWS ID NY1302812

Arbors Condominiums Water District, PWS ID NY1303219

Greenbush Water District, PWS ID NY1330629

Central Dutchess Water Transmission Line, PWS ID NY1330640



DCWWA owns and operates the Arbors, Greenbush and Central Dutchess Water Transmission Line as consecutive water systems to the Town of Poughkeepsie

Who can I contact for more information?

Dutchess County Water & Wastewater Authority: 845-486-3601

Dutchess County Department of Health, Environmental Health Services: 845-486-3404

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially anyone who may not get 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.

**** Visit our website www.DCWWA.org to sign up for updates via our Alerts and Advisories Page ****

Arbors Condominiums Water District, PWS ID NY1303219

Greenbush Water District, PWS ID NY1330629

Central Dutchess Water Transmission Line, PWS ID NY1330640