

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Radiological MCL Exceedance

Schreiber Water System – Supply ID 1315971

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found levels of radiological contaminants, including radium and gross alpha activity in your drinking water that exceeds New York State’s maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 pCi/l for Combined Radium and 15 pCi/l for Gross Alpha.

Compliance with the maximum contaminant level is determined by a running annual average which is the average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Schreiber Water System is required to test quarterly for radiological contaminants.

The information presented below is a summary of the testing results for your drinking water.

Monitoring samples for gross alpha activity (excluding radon and uranium) and total combined radium yielded the following results:

Sample Date:	04/19/2021	04/19/2022	07/29/2022	11/22/2022	01/12/2023	Running Annual Average
Total Radium (pCi/l)	3.49	17.93	28.28	26.30	24.48	24.25
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	1.76	25.65	109.39	26.78	51.67	53.67

What is being done to correct the problem and to meet the MCL?

Research has shown that surface water is usually low in radium, but groundwater can contain significant amounts of radium due to local geology. Deep bedrock aquifers used for drinking water sometimes contain levels of Ra-226 and Ra-228 that exceed regulatory standards.

Ground water wells that draw their water from aquifers that are much shallower tend to not contain significant amounts of radium.

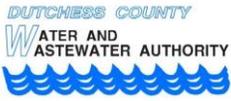
Following these principles, DCWWA Operations continues to adjust the well pump withdrawal rate reducing the flow at which water is drawn from Well 3 and blending water from Well 2.

Monitoring will continue and follow up radiological samples will be taken.

Preventative measures you may choose to take:

Some people may wish to take practical measures to reduce their exposure.

- Bottled water may be used for drinking
- Install a treatment process to reduce radium levels including a home water softening system.



SYSTEM NOTICE

Schreiber Water System

March 6, 2023

What are the health effects of Combined Radium and Gross Alpha?

Radium 226 and 228 Combined

Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Like any other metal such as lead, copper, etc., radium does not pose any health risk by inhalation. It does not volatilize. It is not absorbed through skin either. As far as radiation is concerned, radium is mainly an alpha particle emitter. Alpha particles are very reactive so they can be stopped by pretty much anything, air, water, skin, etc. and can not travel far. Most alpha particles released by radium will disappear before they are inhaled. Skin will effectively stop all alpha particles as well.

Gross Alpha Contamination

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is New York State doing about radiological contaminants in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for radiological contaminants. If samples are found to be above the MCL, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your health.

For further information, please contact:

Dutchess County Water & Wastewater Authority @ 845.486.3601

Dutchess County Behavioral and Community 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 our Alerts and Advisories ****