

Water Advisory

By the Order of the Dutchess County Department of Health

Effective December 18, 2025

Schreiber Water Works
Public Water Supply # 1315971

Why are you receiving this notice / information?

You are receiving this notice because water testing of the public water system detected levels of radiological contaminants Combined Radium 226 and 228 and Gross Alpha in your drinking water that exceed New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Combined Radium of 5 pCi/l and Gross Alpha 15 pCi/l.

Compliance with the maximum contaminant level (MCL) is determined by a running annual average, which is the result average for samples taken at a specific monitoring location for the previous four calendar quarters.

The Schreiber Water System tests quarterly for radiological contaminants to increase monitoring of the water system.

The radiological sample taken on September 4, 2025, from the above-referenced public water system resulted in Gross Alpha and Combined Radium-226 & Radium-228 exceeding the maximum containment level (MCL) allowed in Chapter 1, Part 5, Subpart 5-1, Public Water Systems of the New York State Sanitary Code. The MCLs are 15 pCi/L and 5 pCi/L, respectively. The latest sampling results had a Gross Alpha detect of 29.40 pCi/L, and a Combined Radium-226 & Radium-228 detect of 16.18 pCi/L. The Long Running Annual Average (LRAA) of sample detects are 22.42 pCi/L and 12.85 pCi/L, respectively.

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

DCWWA engaged H2M Architects & Engineers to produce a site and testing plan for a new source well. The plan will be submitted for regulatory approval in February. Following approval, DCWWA will solicit bids for well drilling contractors to develop a test well, which will be sampled for water quality and quantity. Results of this testing will be used in development of a permanent well.

In December 2023, a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) Grant was awarded for up to \$2.6 million or 60% of project costs.

In June 2024, DCWWA staff submitted a SRF Funding application to Environmental Facilities Corp (EFC), project continues to move forward.

As engineering work proceeds, DCWWA is working to secure additional grant funding to reduce the financial impact of the project on customers of the Schreiber Water System.

Preventive measures

Some practical measures you may take to reduce exposure include:

- Use bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- Install a home water softening system that includes ion exchange (salt regeneration), which can reduce radioactive materials in water.
- Install a reverse osmosis treatment process, which can assist in reducing radium levels.

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

Combined Radium 226 and 228

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

Gross Alpha Activity

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters exceeding 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

www.health.ny.gov/publicwater

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.

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