

## PUBLIC NOTICE

AMSTERDAM (T) has been found to be in violation of the New York State Sanitary Code Drinking Water Regulations and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The violation results from exceeding the maximum contaminant level for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) during the 4/1/2009 to 6/30/2009 compliance period. Public water systems that violate drinking water standards, such as the above violation are required to make public notification of the violation through the following notice:..

*Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.*

*Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. A few studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.*

This notice is provided so that you can take prudent steps to protect your health. Individuals that have symptoms described in the above notice may wish to seek medical attention. Additional samples have been and will continue to be taken to monitor the water quality.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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(Signature)

518-842-7961

(Telephone)

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(Print Name)

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Amsterdam

or the New York State Department of Health, Herkimer District Office at (315) 866-6879.

\*Please share this information with any 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). This can be done by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.