



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

March 2015

The Onondaga County Water Authority is pleased to provide its customers and consumers with the Authority's Annual Water Supply Statement and Consumer Confidence Report for the year ending December 31, 2014. Throughout this report readers will be able to find useful information specifically related to OCWA as well as information related to water in general. In addition to mailing a notice to all customers of record announcing the availability of the report, the Authority continues its practice of providing copies of the report to local libraries. OCWA also advertises the availability of the report in local print media.

2014 began with all of Central New York experiencing a frigid winter brought about what is now known as a polar vortex. Dealing with the issues caused by winter weather ultimately turned out to be the biggest event of the year for OCWA customers and personnel. Not only did the polar vortex wreak havoc on the water system it also disrupted planning related to routine maintenance and improvements. The cold temperatures caused a significant increase in water main breaks, frozen services, and frozen meters. Under very difficult and demanding circumstances OCWA maintenance crews did an incredible job addressing each challenge and kept the system operational throughout this very difficult period.

While our maintenance crews dealt with the influx of unexpected maintenance work, OCWA's engineering staff kept busy designing replacements and improvements throughout our system. Their combined efforts resulted in the Authority completing over \$6,000,000 in capital improvements throughout the water system. Projects completed through the annual capital improvement program included routine replacement of water mains, hydrants, and valves plus major improvements and or replacements of pump stations and storage tanks. Additionally, during 2014, OCWA implemented the replacement of its customer services information system. Separately, Operations replaced its SCADA control system that allows for remote operation of pump stations, control facilities and storage tanks. The Authority also continued its efforts to improve energy efficiency through ongoing installation of LED lights in and around all OCWA facilities.

One particular effort, which the entire water works community is proud of, came about through our work with New York's Congressional delegation. Senator Schumer and our Central New York members of the House of Representatives worked cooperatively to repeal a burdensome new USEPA regulation related to fire hydrants. Had the rule not been repealed it would have cost OCWA customers hundreds of thousands of dollars related to replacement of existing hydrant inventory.

For its efforts, throughout the year, OCWA received three awards. The New York Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) honored the Authority with its 2014 Project of the Year Award for the Thurber and Seneca Pump Stations that were rebuilt, resulting in improved reliability and energy efficiency. AWWA also recognized OCWA's Safety program which makes safety a priority through implementation of internal programs that make personal safety a priority.

OCWA also received the 2014 Partnership for Safe Water "Director's Award of Recognition" from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for 17 consecutive years of compliance with the Agency's voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment plants. OCWA's Marcellus Water Treatment Plant is one of the original program partners and was the 8th plant in the nation recognized for Phase 3 compliance in the voluntary program and has now sustained compliance each year since joining the program.

To learn more about the OCWA water system and water supply, you are urged to read the information included in this report. Readers that have questions regarding the report or that may require additional information can contact OCWA's Water Quality Manager, Bob Rusyn by calling 315-673-4304, extension 11.

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