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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

March 2021

The Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) is pleased to provide its customers and consumers with its ***Annual Water Quality Report and Consumer Confidence Report*** for the year ending December 31, 2020. Throughout this report, readers will find useful information specifically related to the water delivered to you by OCWA, as well as information related to water in general. In addition to distributing a notice to customers of record announcing the availability of the report, OCWA continues its practice of providing copies of the report to local libraries and advertises the availability of the report in local print media.

2020 was a year of significant challenges for all of us. The pandemic brought on hardships for many and changes for all of us. As signs of the pandemic developed in February, we began implementing our prepared continuity of operations plans to ensure that the water supply would be safe and ready to meet the changing needs of our community. Collectively, OCWA's staff, as essential employees, modified our daily operations and stepped up to the challenges. The water delivered to you not only met required water quality requirements, but was also far better than New York State Department of Health and USEPA standards.

Even with the pandemic, we were able to continue our capital improvement and major maintenance projects. Our work in these areas and reinvestment in the water infrastructure helps to keep our water system in a very good operational condition. We began construction on the first phase of the Lake Ontario water treatment plant improvements. The Lake Ontario facilities were constructed in the late 1960's and have served the community well for over 50 years. While still functioning very well, it is time for major upgrades and equipment replacement so that the facilities can continue to provide high quality water for the next 50 years. The first phase of the project includes the replacement of the electrical substations for both the Lake Ontario intake site and the water treatment plant campus. This phase also includes the addition of auxiliary power generators that will allow for continuous operations during a power outage, similar to other OCWA system facilities. This phase is well underway and is scheduled to be completed in June 2021. Our Engineering staff has also been hard at work on the design of the next phase of the project, which will include work on the water filtration systems, replacement of major equipment, upgrading the control systems and major building maintenance work. This second phase should begin construction later in 2021. A third phase that will include the replacement of the onsite water storage tanks will follow in later years.

Our ongoing investment in the replacement and renewal of aging watermains continued as well. We replaced 21,193 feet of watermain and completed watermain renewal projects of an additional 7,000 feet in two neighborhoods. The renewal work involves relining aging cast iron watermains in a process that minimizes the excavation work required. While not suited for all areas, it does provide us with an option for our program. We will continue our renewal and replacement program in 2021.

While we continued work on many projects and completed regular maintenance work, we also laid the groundwork for future projects and we expect to move ahead with this work in 2021. Planned projects include the replacement of the 10 million-gallon Fairmount reservoir; construction of the north shore pipeline extension on Oneida Lake, which will enhance operations at the eastern end of the water system; and piping improvements for the Otisco Lake dam site.

In addition to the aforementioned projects, OCWA's ongoing annual capital reinvestment program continues to address replacement of hydrants, water services and continued improvements to tanks, pump stations, and pressure control facilities.

With respect to overall water quality, the Otisco Lake Water Treatment Plant has been recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for each of the last 23 years for its compliance with the Agency's Partnership for Safe Water. Additionally, the Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant, was recognized for its 6th consecutive year of compliance with the Partnership program. It should be noted the Partnership for Safe Water is a voluntary program that holds its program partners to a higher water quality standard than currently required under the Safe Drinking Water Act and is a clear indicator of OCWA's commitment to providing the high-quality water that the Authority customers deserve and demand.

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 require additional information can contact OCWA's Water Quality Manager Lisa Yesensky by calling 315-455-7061, extension 3157.

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