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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY**

**March 2022**

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, 2021. 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.

2021 was another year of significant challenges with the continuation of the pandemic. The pandemic continued to inflict hardships on many of us. Our operational and staffing changes we implemented in 2020 continued for 2021. OCWA employees stepped up and took on those challenges to ensure that the water supply would be safe and ready to meet the needs of our community. Once again, the water delivered to you not only met water quality requirements, but was also far better than New York State Department of Health and USEPA standards.

Supply chain issues affected schedules on some of our major capital improvement projects but we were able to stay ahead of our operational needs and saw no impact on our daily operations. We continued our reinvestment in the water system with several 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. One of our major initiatives is the upgrades of our Lake Ontario Water Treatment Facilities. 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.

In 2021 we completed construction on the first phase of the Lake Ontario water treatment plant improvements. The first phase of the project included 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. The project was a great success and was recognized by the Central New York Branch of the American Public Works Association for a Structures/Facilities Project of the Year Award. Our Engineering staff and consultants completed 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 was put out to bid and a contract was awarded for construction to begin this year. A third phase that will include the replacement of the onsite water storage tanks will follow in later years.

One of our other major projects is the Fairmount Water Storage Tank replacement project at our Hinsdale Road work center site. In April 2021 we broke ground on the construction of two 6 million gallon concrete water storage tanks to replace our aging steel water storage tank. The first of the two tanks which was constructed within the footprint of our old decommissioned open reservoir was completed in December. Construction of the second tank will begin in Spring 2022 with completion scheduled for the end of the year.

Our ongoing investment in the replacement and renewal of aging watermains continued as well. We replaced 14,700 feet of watermain as part of 10 improvement projects and completed 4 watermain renewal projects of an additional 7,700 feet. 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.

In addition to the watermain replacements and relining projects, we completed construction of the north shore pipeline extension through the Towns of Constantia and Vienna. This project included 14,600 feet of new watermain and a flow control structure. The pipeline was put into operation in the beginning of July 2021 just in time for the summertime demand for communities around the lake and in the eastern end of our system.

OCWA's ongoing annual capital reinvestment program also continues to address replacement of hydrants, water services and continues to make 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 USEPA/AWWA for each of the last 24 years for its compliance with the Agency's Partnership for Safe Water. Additionally, the Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant, was recognized for its 7th 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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**Executive Director of Operations**

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