

Table of Detected Contaminants

Turbidity at Entry Point

Contaminant	Water Source	Violation Yes/ No	Sampling Frequency (date of highest reading)	Average Level (Range)	Units Measured	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Lowest % of Monthly tests meeting limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	Otisco	No	Every 4 hrs (6/14/2021)	0.05 (.03 - .11)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	Soil run off
	Ontario	No	Every 4 hrs (9/8/21)	0.049 (.028 - .096)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	
	Skaneateles	Yes*	11/12/2021	10.73	NTU	N/A	TT = 5.0 NTU for systems that do not filter	N/A	

About Turbidity:

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Treatment plants that filter also measure it because it is a good indicator of filter efficiency. Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario waters are filtered. Skaneateles Lake water is not.

Customers of the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) get their water from one of three sources. Water may originate from Otisco Lake, Lake Ontario, or Skaneateles Lake, which is treated by the Syracuse Water Department and sold to OCWA. Customers may also get a mixture of these waters. Water purveyors are required to measure turbidity as water leaves their plants.

OCWA's highest single turbidity measurement during 2021 at the Otisco Lake treatment plant occurred on 6/14/21 (0.11 NTU). Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year at the Lake Ontario treatment plant occurred on 9/8/21 (0.096 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU and that 95 % of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. The levels recorded at both treatment plants were within these regulatory standards.

***Treatment Technique/MCL Violation for Turbidity;** On November 12, 2021, due to sustained southerly winds, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of five Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Turbidity levels reached 10.73 NTU and triggered a MCL violation (1 day exceedance). Notification of this event was made to the public and to the Onondaga County Health Department .

Health Effects of Turbidity: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Please pay special attention to the additional statements in this document regarding cryptosporidium.