

SWAP Summary for OCWA

The NYS Department of Health has evaluated OCWA's susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur. OCWA provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure that the drinking water it delivers to consumers meets all applicable standards.

Otisco Lake Source:

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for OCWA's Otisco Lake source of drinking water. The amount of row crops in the assessment area results in a medium susceptibility to pesticides. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with one discrete contaminant source, namely: mines. While lakes are not generally considered to have a high natural sensitivity to phosphorus in SWAP, Otisco Lake can have problems with algae. Therefore, additional phosphorus contribution would likely result in further water quality degradation.

Lake Ontario Source:

The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use such a source can include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels- intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The summary below is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this public water system intake.

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for pesticides contamination. Non-sanitary wastes may increase contamination potential. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: mines.

Skaneateles Lake Source (water purchased from the City of Syracuse):

This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities.