

Date: May 2023

To: All OCWA Customers/Consumers

From: Jeffrey D. Brown, Executive Director  
Geoffrey G. Miller, Executive Director of Operations  
Curtis R. Marvin, Chief Financial Officer

Subject: 2022 Consumer Confidence Report

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

We at the Onondaga County Water Authority (“OCWA” or the “Authority”) are pleased to provide our customers and consumers with the attached **Consumer Confidence Report**, also known as the annual drinking water quality report, for the year ending on December 31, 2022. Throughout this report, readers will find useful information specifically related to the water delivered to you by OCWA. In addition to notifying our customers of the availability of the report, we are continuing our practice of providing copies of the report to local libraries and advertising its availability in local print media.

In 2022, despite supply chain issues and inflationary pressures, our employees worked hard to ensure that our water supply was safe and ready to meet the needs of our community. As in prior years, the water delivered to you not only met prescribed water quality requirements, but in many ways surpassed New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (“USEPA”) standards.

While our employees concentrated their efforts on providing high quality drinking water, they also demonstrated OCWA’s core values, including focusing on the “well-being” of co-workers. Our employee-led safety committee met monthly throughout the year, reviewing policies and procedures and making recommendations on improvements, training, and equipment selection. We implemented many of the committee’s recommendations, resulting in a significant reduction in our workers’ compensation experience modification rate (“EMR”), a metric that insurers use to calculate insurance premiums; it takes into account the number of claims/injuries a company has had in the past, and their corresponding costs, thereby saving OCWA thousands of dollars. Our safe working practices also led to OCWA receiving a state-wide safety award from the New York Section of the American Water Works Association in 2022. We also received the award in 2021, 2020, 2018, 2016, 2015, and 2014.

In addition, we continued to significantly reinvest in our five-county water system via several major capital improvement and maintenance projects. This ongoing work helps to keep our water system in good operational condition and limit costly service disruptions. Included in our 2022 capital reinvestment program were continuing renovations to our Lake Ontario water treatment facilities. These facilities were constructed in the late 1960’s and have served our community well for over 50 years. While still functioning effectively, it is necessary to make major upgrades to the facilities to ensure that they can continue to provide high quality water for the next 50 years.

Last year we began construction on the second phase of the Lake Ontario improvements. This phase of the project includes work on the water filtration systems, replacement of major equipment, upgrading the control systems, and major building maintenance work. The first phase of the project, which included replacement of the electrical substations and addition of emergency power generators, received an award from the New York Section of the American Water Works Association for Project of the Year. A third phase of the project will include the replacement of the onsite water storage tanks in the coming years.

Work on another major capital project, replacement of the water storage facilities at our Hinsdale Road work center in Camillus, also continued in 2022. The second of two six-million-gallon concrete water storage tanks was constructed and placed into service. Site grading will be completed in 2023 to finalize this project.

Our ongoing investment in the replacement and renewal of aging watermains continued as well. We replaced 22,300 feet of watermain during nine improvement projects and completed a watermain renewal project consisting of an additional 9,850 feet. The renewal work involves relining aging cast iron watermains via a process that minimizes the excavation footprint required. This renewal project received a 2022 Project of the Year award from the Central New York Branch of the American Public Works Association.

In addition to our watermain replacement and relining projects, and in cooperation with our municipal partners, we added four town district projects at the end of 2021 and during 2022 in Hastings, Granby, Sullivan, and Lenox/Lincoln. Those projects included over 50 miles of new water infrastructure and the potential to add over 1,200 new customers.

Our ongoing annual capital reinvestment program also continued to replace numerous hydrants and water services, and made further improvements to tanks, pump stations, and pressure control facilities.

Our Otisco Lake Water Treatment Plant ("Otisco WTP") continued to maintain its Phase III certification under USEPA's Partnership for Safe Water optimization program, and in 2022 the plant received this certification for the 25<sup>th</sup> straight year, evidencing compliance with this voluntary program. Also in 2022, our Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant received the USEPA Partnership for Safe Water Phase IV President's Award. It should be noted that the Partnership program supports the Authority and other water utilities in voluntary efforts to achieve greater control and removal of microbial impurities. Our Otisco WTP was the eighth in the nation to be certified under this program. Both treatment plants serve as an example of how OCWA sets and meets higher standards for water quality than is required by state and federal government mandates.

To learn more about our 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 our Water Quality Manager, Lisa Yesensky, by calling 315-455-7061, extension 3157.