

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 (9/12/23)	0.05 (0.03 - 0.09)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	Soil run off
	Ontario	No	Every 4 hrs (4/19/23)	0.05 (0.02 - 0.09)	NTU	N/A	TT = 0.3 NTU for systems that filter	100%	
	Skaneateles	Yes*	3/25/23 4/6/23 4/7/23	5.68 25.27 8.06	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. As explained above, Skaneateles Lake water is not.

OCWA customers 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 the treatment facilities.

OCWA's highest single turbidity measurement during 2023 at the Otisco WTP occurred on 9/12/23 (0.09 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit ("NTU")). Our highest single turbidity measurement for the year at the Ontario WTP occurred on 4/19/23 (0.09 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 must be below 0.3 NTU. The levels recorded at both treatment plants were all below these regulatory standards.

***Treatment Technique/MCL Violation for Turbidity;** On March 25, 2023, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5 NTU due to high winds. Turbidity levels reached 5.68 NTU. The treatment technique violation was reported to the Onondaga County Health Department. Additionally, on April 6, 2023 and April 7, 2023, due to sustained southerly winds, the turbidity levels entering the City of Syracuse's Skaneateles Lake intake exceeded the maximum allowable standard of 5.0 NTU. Turbidity levels reached 25.27 & 8.06 NTU respectively, and triggered an MCL violation (2 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 known health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may also indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms can include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. See page 10 for more information about cryptosporidium and giardia.