



# NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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## **NYPIRG RELEASES GOVERNMENT DATA LISTING WATER SYSTEMS WITH ELEVATED LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES AS NEW YORK STATE DRINKING WATER QUALITY COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE NEARS**

### **NYPIRG URGES COUNCIL TO ACT TO STRICTLY REGULATE 1,4-DIOXANE AND PFOA, PFOS**

(Albany, N.Y.) A review of public water systems in New York found that many communities have reportable levels PFOA/PFOS or 1,4-dioxane in their drinking water, according to a review by NYPIRG. NYPIRG reviewed the most recent data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The review showed that drinking water for over 2.8 million New Yorkers have levels of 1,4-dioxane in their drinking water supplies above .3 parts per billion, and drinking water for over 1.4 million New Yorkers contained levels of PFOA/PFOS above the most stringent levels recommended.

The drinking water standards consist of those either issued by the EPA or a coalition of New York environmental groups. NYPIRG's review of EPA data found the following:

	<b>1,4 dioxane health risk limit</b>	<b>Population affected by 1,4-dioxane</b>	<b>PFOA/PFOS health risk limit</b>	<b>Population affected by PFOA/PFOS</b>
<b>Environmental groups' recommended limit<sup>1</sup></b>	.3 parts per billion	2,840,646	4-10 parts per trillion	1,450,000
<b>U.S. EPA findings</b>	.35 parts per billion <sup>2</sup>	2,793,492	.07 parts per billion <sup>3</sup>	1,170,500

The review of communities showed that 49 public water systems have 1,4 dioxane in their drinking water supplies that meet EPA minimum reporting limits. There are over 31 systems in which the amounts have exceeded the recommended limits. Eight public water systems have PFOA or PFOS in their drinking water supplies that meet EPA minimum reporting limits. All eight of those systems reported levels that exceed recommended limits, and four exceeded the EPA's current health advisory threshold.

By October 2<sup>nd</sup>, New York State's Drinking Water Quality Council is scheduled to release its recommendations on how best to regulate the presence of 1,4 dioxane and PFOA and PFOS in drinking water supplies.<sup>4</sup> Due to their common use in water-resistant, stain-proof and nonstick products as well as firefighting foam, PFOA and PFOS are increasingly being detected in New York's drinking water. 1,4 dioxane is an industrial solvent manufactured in large quantities for numerous uses. Decades of improper use, disposal and storage have led to widespread drinking water contamination. Studies find that exposure to 1,4 dioxane can cause liver cancer and chronic kidney and liver effects, which has led EPA to designate the chemical as a likely human carcinogen.<sup>5</sup>

New Yorkers interested in reviewing their communities' drinking water test results can do so by reviewing <https://www.nypirg.org/whatsinmywater/>.

<sup>1</sup> Coalition letter to New York State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, September 5, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Rates of 0.35 ppb raises the cancer risk to one additional cancer per million, according to the US EPA, [https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris/iris\\_documents/documents/subst/0326\\_summary.pdf#nameddest=canceroral](https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris/iris_documents/documents/subst/0326_summary.pdf#nameddest=canceroral).

<sup>3</sup> This range is considered health-protective under the draft Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls, recently released by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR), <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp.asp?id=1117&tid=237>. Rates of 0.07 ppb or more exceed the EPA drinking water health advisory

<sup>4</sup> New York State Public Health Law § 1113. The statute requires a first report one year after the date of the first meeting of the Council, which was October 2, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, "Public Health Statement for 1,4 Dioxane," <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/phs/phs.asp?id=953&tid=199>.

Highest Combined PFOA/PFOS measurement

SampleID	PWSID	PWSName	MaxOfAnalyticalResultValue (ppb)	POPULATION_SERVED_COUNT
201949238	NY5110526	Suffolk County Water Authority	0.53	1100000
35121142001AM	NY3503549	City of Newburgh	0.17	28000
35160373003AM	NY3503580	New Windsor Consolidated Water District	0.14	30000
35151671001AM	NY5103704	Hampton Bays Water District	0.0820	12500
35141680009AM	NY2900000	Town of Hempstead Water District	0.0480	110000
3199974	NY2212214	Fort Drum	0.04	34000
35169517011AM	NY2902830	Water Authority of Western Nassau	0.0320	120000
35134966001AM	NY2902825	Garden City Park Water District	0.0220	15500

Highest 1,4-dioxane result

Contaminant	PWSID	PWSName	MaxOfAnalyticalResultValue (ppb)	POPULATION_SERVED_COUNT
1,4-dioxane	NY2902817	Bethpage Water District	8.50	33000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902845	Plainview Water District	5.80	35000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902829	Hicksville Water District	5.60	47810
1,4-dioxane	NY2900000	Town of Hempstead Water District	5	110000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902827	Village of Hempstead	4.50	56000
1,4-dioxane	NY5110526	Suffolk County Water Authority	4.34	1100000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902824	Village of Garden City	3.90	25000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902825	Garden City Park Water District	3.90	15500
1,4-dioxane	NY0301665	Endicott Municipal Waterworks	3.603260	45000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902831	Jericho Water District	3.50	58000
1,4-dioxane	NY2912267	Port Washington Water District	2	34000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902830	Water Authority of Western Nassau	10	120000
1,4-dioxane	NY5103271	Greenlawn Water District	1.60	42000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902822	Franklin Square Water District	1.50	20000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902840	Aqua NY, Inc.	1.35	177000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902854	South Farmingdale Water District	1.30	44700
1,4-dioxane	NY5103276	Dix Hills Water District	1.30	34522
1,4-dioxane	NY2902841	Water Authority of Great Neck North	1.24	31400
1,4-dioxane	NY2902856	Westbury Water District	1.10	20500
1,4-dioxane	NY5103263	South Huntington Water District	1	81760
1,4-dioxane	NY2902815	Albertson Water District	0.94	13500
1,4-dioxane	NY2902835	Long Island American Water Corporation	0.92	230300
1,4-dioxane	NY2902833	Locust Valley WD	0.89725	7500
1,4-dioxane	NY2902851	Roslyn Water District	0.86	17000
1,4-dioxane	NY0301668	Johnson City Waterworks	0.73	16578
1,4-dioxane	NY2902836	Manhasset Lakeville Water District	0.68	43000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902839	Village of Mineola	0.65	20600
1,4-dioxane	NY4303673	United Water New York	0.50	270000
1,4-dioxane	NY3316112	Dewitt WDS - North	0.50	13600
1,4-dioxane	NY5103266	Saint James Water District	0.47	10587
1,4-dioxane	NY5105656	Smithtown Water District	0.39	19635
1,4-dioxane	NY1420549	Elma Water District #1	0.31	10287
1,4-dioxane	NY2902857	West Hempstead Water District	0.31	32031
1,4-dioxane	NY5103698	Stony Brook Water District	0.30712	4836
1,4-dioxane	NY2902848	Village of Rockville Centre	0.21	24700
1,4-dioxane	NY4600091	Glenville Water District #11	0.17	15000
1,4-dioxane	NY0301674	Vestal Consolidated Water District #1	0.12	20950
1,4-dioxane	NY2902826	City of Glen Cove	0.11	28000
1,4-dioxane	NY5903465	City of Yonkers	0.11	196086
1,4-dioxane	NY4303675	Village of Suffern	0.11	12000
1,4-dioxane	NY2902853	Aqua NY - Sea Cliff	0.10	15000
1,4-dioxane	NY1800544	City of Batavia	0.0910	15475
1,4-dioxane	NY3503530	Greenwood Lake Village	0.0884	3411
1,4-dioxane	NY7003493	New York City System	0.0820	8271000
1,4-dioxane	NY1302812	Poughkeepsie Townwide Water District	0.0810	43000
1,4-dioxane	NY0301651	City of Binghamton	0.0770	47600
1,4-dioxane	NY5103705	Riverhead Water District	0.0720	35000
1,4-dioxane	NY5103704	Hampton Bays Water District	0.0710	12500
1,4-dioxane	NY0100192	City of Cohoes	0.07	15550