



# Village of Scarsdale

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2015

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### **Westchester County Water District #1: USEPA Tier 2 Violation Notice**

Pursuant to United States Environmental Protection Agency requirements, the Village of Scarsdale and the cities of Mount Vernon, White Plains, and Yonkers, which receive drinking water through Westchester County Water District #1, recently distributed in quarterly water bills a Westchester County notice titled, “IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER.”

All water users are encouraged to read the notice, recognizing that SCARSDALE DRINKING WATER QUALITY HAS NOT DECLINED BELOW THE STANDARD THAT WATER CUSTOMERS HAVE ENJOYED FOR DECADES – the supply is subject to the same water safety treatment protocols that have maintained drinking water in Scarsdale for many years, including appropriate chlorination to inactivate organisms such as giardia, bacteria, and viruses.

However, as treatment protocols have improved over the years to include ultra-violet treatment in order to be even more effective, as well as to address organisms such as Cryptosporidium, Westchester County Water District #1 has not implemented the necessary District-wide upgrades within the deadlines prescribed, prompting United States Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement Action. The County must bring their water treatment facilities into compliance by 2018.

Importantly, although the water supply is not presently subject to ultra-violet treatment, ongoing routine testing has not detected any Cryptosporidium exceedance in Scarsdale drinking water. Such testing will continue through completion of the necessary treatment facility upgrades.

Finally, a copy of the USEPA Tier 2 Violation Notice is available on the Scarsdale website at [www.scarsdale.com](http://www.scarsdale.com).

Surface Water Treatment Rule  
Disinfection Treatment and Public Notification  
Tier 2 Violation Notice  
July through September 2015

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Westchester County Water District (WCWD) #1 Failure to Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system is in violation of Federal drinking water requirements, specifically the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR). Scarsdale, White Plains and portions of Yonkers received water that did not comply with these requirements from July 1 to September 30, 2015.

Water is supplied by WCWD#1 through the Kensico-Bronx Pipeline (KBP). The northern KBP is supplied from the Kensico Reservoir by gravity flow. The southern section is supplied from Shaft 22 of the Delaware Aqueduct. Currently, WCWD#1 provides potable water through the KBP to the District member communities of the Cities of White Plains, Yonkers, and Mount Vernon, and the Village of Scarsdale. In addition, the City of White Plains supplies water to a portion of the Town of North Castle, an out-of-District user, through a connection contained within the City of White Plains' system.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires certain public water systems utilizing surface water to be in compliance with the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) has completed construction of the Catskill-Delaware Water Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection Facility which was implemented in response to the USEPA LT2ESWTR. This Rule requires disinfection that targets *cryptosporidium*. The 2 billion gallon per day facility provides UV disinfection of water that is compliant with LT2ESWTR. This water, which is also disinfected with chlorine, is provided to connections in the southern portion of WCWD#1 from Shaft 22 of the Delaware Aqueduct which supplies all of Mount Vernon and portions of the City of Yonkers.

Water taken by the District directly from the Kensico Reservoir is disinfected with chlorine, which provides virus inactivation; however the District's utilization of chlorination is not sufficient to bring the District into compliance with the LT2ESWTR's treatment requirements for *cryptosporidium*, and therefore that water is not in compliance with the Rule.

Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have the right to know about compliance with drinking water requirements, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Notification – Public and State notifications are required to the violation noted above.

#### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### **What does this mean?**

The water you have received from WCWD#1 is in violation of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and, therefore, we are required to include the following statement in this notice:

*\*Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.\**

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek advice from your healthcare provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium, giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The WCWD#1 Chlorination Systems are in operation providing treatment for giardia, bacteria and viruses. Test results of samples collected on a weekly basis for cryptosporidium and giardia from the source water have not indicated the presence of cryptosporidium or giardia in the drinking water during the period covered by this notice.

### **What has been and is being done?**

Westchester County has implemented a Cryptosporidium action plan, which includes weekly monitoring of water taken from the Kensico Reservoir for the presence of cryptosporidium. The enhanced monitoring will continue until the Local UV Treatment Systems described below are completed. The weekly monitoring results will be published on the Westchester County website at <http://www3.westchestergov.com>. Select Departments, then Environmental Facilities, then County Water District #1 on the right tool bar.

To provide UV disinfection treatment for the northern section of the KBP, two new independent UV disinfection facilities will be constructed at separate locations along the KBP. Two facilities (rather than one single facility) are required due to hydraulic conditions inherent to the existing gravity-driven supply systems. Both UV facilities will be in White Plains. One UV facility will be located at the Orchard Street Pumping Station and is scheduled for completion by May 15, 2017. The other UV facility will be located at the Central Avenue Pumping Station and is scheduled for completion by March 15, 2018.

For more information, please contact Anthony Della Valle at (914) 813-5477 or [amda@westchestergov.com](mailto:amda@westchestergov.com).

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

This notice is being sent to you by Westchester County Water District #1, Water System ID#: NY 5903482.

Date distributed: October 7, 2015