.*Definitions you need to know:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL):

Highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal's (MRDLGs):
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Milligrams per Liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one million parts of liquid (parts per million-ppm).

Micrograms per Liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one billion parts of liquid. (parts per billion—ppb).

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

90th Percentile Value: The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

This year, quarterly Water and Sewer Bills will be considered late and subject to a 10% penalty if paid after the following dates: April 30, July 31, October 31.

There is a night box at the rear of City Hall for payments made after business hours or holidays and weekends.

A Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

New York State Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for our system. The assessment rates the susceptibility of a water system's source water. The City of Cortland's rating is "highly susceptible" due to the highly permeable nature of our aquifer and the close proximity of land uses and activities to our three wells. The nitrate, chloride and sodium levels reported in this document help to support the "highly susceptible" rating.

Steps have been taken in conjunction with the Town of Cortlandville in delineating the aquifer recharge and contribution areas. A newly written , but not yet implemented Land Use Plan recognizes our highly susceptible aquifer. Through zoning and aquifer protection district changes, our "Sole Source Aquifer" will be better protected.

Specifics of the Aquifer Protection District may be reviewed at the Town of Cortlandville Office at 3577 Terrace Road or the Cortland County Health Department at 60 Central Avenue.

Water Emergency Contact Numbers

Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am—4:00 pm, 753-3061

Treatment Plant, Automated System, 753-0421

Cell Phone Numbers: 345-0011, 345-0013,

Drinking Water

Drinking water including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at-least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hot Line (1-800-426-4791).** The source of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radio-active gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels over many years in drinking water may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The main risk is lung cancer from radon entering indoor air from soil under homes. The Cortland Water Department conducted radon testing in our water during 2006. Results showed an average of 3 samples was 224.23pCi/L in the city's finished water. For additional information call your state radon program (1-800-458-1158) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon).

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations. Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. 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).