

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF SAUGERTIES WATER DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC WATER ADVISORY UPDATE - Taste and Odor Conditions

Date: June 9, 2026

The Village of Saugerties Water Department in conjunction with the Town of Saugerties Water Department would like to provide an update regarding the taste and odor conditions affecting the public water supply.

The water remains safe to drink and continues to meet all State and Federal drinking water standards. However, we recognize that many customers continue to experience objectionable taste and odor characteristics and understand the frustration this has caused.

The issue appears to be the result of an unexpected early-season algae bloom in the Blue Mountain Reservoir, our source of drinking water. While algae blooms can occur naturally due to environmental conditions, the Village is actively taking steps to minimize their impact on water quality.

Actions taken to date include:

- Completion of a system-wide hydrant flushing program to remove stagnant water and improve circulation throughout the distribution system.
- Increased monitoring of source water and treatment plant operations.
- Installation and operation of mechanical aeration equipment at the raw water inlet tank to help reduce taste and odor compounds before treatment.
- Implementation of a carefully controlled copper sulfate treatment program within the reservoir to reduce algae growth. This treatment is being conducted gradually to avoid adverse environmental impacts and to prevent conditions that could worsen taste and odor issues.
- Consultation with water treatment specialists, engineers, and chemical suppliers to evaluate additional treatment options.
- Submission of a request to the Ulster County Department of Health seeking approval to implement sodium permanganate pre-oxidation treatment. Preliminary testing has shown promising results in reducing taste and odor compounds before filtration.

The Village will continue to monitor conditions closely and implement additional treatment measures as approvals are received and conditions warrant.

We understand that taste and odor concerns affect the public's confidence in their drinking water. As lifelong members of this community, Water Department staff share these concerns and are committed to restoring the highest possible water quality as quickly and responsibly as possible.

We appreciate the patience and cooperation of our residents while these efforts continue.

For questions or concerns:

Village of Saugerties Water Department

P :845-246-8958 E: vdavide@villageofsaugerties.org

Town of Saugerties Water Department

(Malden, Glasco, Kings Highway, and Barclay Heights Water Districts)

P: 845-246-8671