



NEWS RELEASE

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INTERACTIVE WEBSITE WITH LOCAL WATER DATA GOES LIVE - STATEWIDE NEW YORK WATER TESTING PORTFOLIOS AND POTENTIAL THREATS UNVEILED:

New Yorkers Find Out “[What’s In My Water?](#)”

Website cuts through murky federal reporting data and gives New Yorkers deep dive on local water

(New York) – Today, NYPIRG released a comprehensive online water portfolio project, [What’s In My Water?](#), to give all New Yorkers an interactive, easy to navigate resource about the state of their drinking water. The online tool includes information on the presence of contaminants found through state and federal laboratory testing, and the location and nature of some potential threats to local drinking water (searchable by zip code and maps).

Clean water is among our most precious resources. While federal and state laws are supposed to protect us, we know that public and private drinking water sources are under constant threat; that crumbling water infrastructure may further contaminate water supplies; and that government monitoring and enforcement resources often face significant uncertainties.

“Access to clean drinking water should not be a privilege. Access to clear information about water shouldn’t be either. With *What’s In My Water?*, New Yorkers can decide whether their local water snapshots sink or swim,” said Megan Ahearn, NYPIRG Program Director.

NYPIRG compiled the profile data from multiple government records sources between June 2016 and February 2017. Such information is often posted publicly, but difficult to access or buried in dense reports. New Yorkers deserve better.

“We embarked on this research project to provide a “one-stop-shop” for information about your local public drinking water. It became very important for New Yorkers to be able to see what are the public health threats to our drinking water and ground water resources within the state, particularly after Flint, Michigan and Hoosick Falls,” said Anestoria Shalkowski, Ph.D.(Geology) and NYPIRG Clean Water Project Coordinator.

New York State has 2,324 active community-based public water systems that collectively provide the tap water to about 80% of the state’s population, or 16 million people. Another four million New Yorkers use private household wells. *What’s In My Water?* dives into New York’s community-based systems.

Please visit *What’s In My Water?* at <http://nypirg.org/whatsinmywater/>.

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More Background on *What's In My Water?*:

Use the tool to:

- Pinpoint primary aquifer and surface water sources for drinking water within the state
- Identify potential threats to public drinking water facilities/sources
- Find regulated and unregulated contaminants identified in drinking water supplies through test results
- Enhance public understanding of drinking water supplies and how to safeguard them

The project contains two sets of data. First, you can search by ZIP code for information on your local public drinking water supply for recent testing data as contained in government records. This data contains information on the presence of regulated contaminants and unregulated contaminants detected in your water. Second, you can search a map to view potential threats to drinking water in your local area.

The database is designed to provide information on New York water supplies, the regulated and unregulated contaminants detected within drinking water, and potential threats to New York drinking water sources. Information was obtained from the New York State Department of Health (DOH); the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); Primary Water Supplier reports; the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and from other public records.