

Town Supervisor  
**Kevin J. Tollisen**

Town Board  
**Paul Hotaling**  
**John Wasielewski**  
**Daphne Jordan**  
**Jeremy W. Connors**



# TOWN of HALFMOON

**2 HALFMOON TOWN PLAZA**  
**HALFMOON, NY 12065**  
**COUNTY OF SARATOGA**

(518) 371-7410 Ext. 2200 • Fax (518) 371-0936

October 11, 2017

Dear Town Resident:

As you know, providing safe drinking water has been a top priority for myself and the Town Board. We continue to work with surrounding communities to enhance our ability to provide safe water and to also make sure that you, as residents, have multiple sources of water on which to rely in case of emergency. We were able to accommodate these goals without incurring Town debt based upon our Agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency and the lawsuit we filed and settled with the General Electric Company.

During the third quarter of this year, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) noted that the Town had a minor exceedance of Trihalomethane (TTHM) at one of the three monitoring points in the Town of Halfmoon. TTHM is a byproduct of drinking water disinfection. Although the exceedance was minor, we immediately put the City of Troy, our current supplier, on notice that any exceedance of DOH standards was and is unacceptable. Enclosed herein is the written notice sent to the City of Troy together with the notice prepared by DOH regarding the exceedance.

As always, myself and the Town Board strongly believe that an open government is a good government. We remain available to answer any questions you may have regarding this matter. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to protect the residents of this community and to make sure you continue have safe water for you and your families. Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions regarding this matter at (518)371-7410 ext. 2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J. Tollisen', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kevin J. Tollisen  
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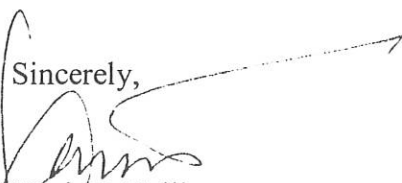
Mayor Patrick Madden  
City of Troy  
433 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mayor Madden:

I am writing this letter to express my deep concern and dismay regarding the recent exceedance of the permissible levels of Trihalomethane (TTHM) in one of the four testing areas monitored by the Department of Health in the Town of Halfmoon. While I realize this was a relatively minor exceedance of the byproduct caused by the disinfection of the water which will not have any ill effects to the health of our community, any exceedance of the Department of Health's standards of the water provided by Troy pursuant to our contract is completely and totally unacceptable. We entered into a long term contract with you for *safe* drinking water for our residents.

As you know, providing safe drinking water for the residents of the Town of Halfmoon has been one of the foremost concerns during my tenure as Supervisor both for myself and for the entire Town Board. We have worked tirelessly to obtain a second source of water so that our residents would not have to drink water from the Hudson River contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls(PCB). We secured a settlement from the General Electric Company which enabled us to hook into the County Water Authority system to provide yet another source of safe water for our residents without having to incur debt. All of this was done to further ensure that safe water is available for our residents. Anything else is unacceptable.

We will continue to work with you, the other municipalities effected, the Rensselaer County Health Department and the New York State Department of Health to continue to address this issue to make sure we do not have another exceedance in the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Kevin J. Tollisen  
Town Supervisor

KJT:tr

cc: Halfmoon Town Board  
Frank Tironi, Director of Water

**Public Notification for Total Trihalomethane Exceedance**  
**Town of Halfmoon Drinking Water System**  
**Public Water Supply # NY4519111**  
**July 1 – September 30, 2017**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water. Each calendar quarter samples are collected and analyzed to determine the levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA) and Trihalomethanes (TTHM). HAAs and TTHMs are a byproduct of drinking water disinfection, which is needed to kill harmful organisms. An average of four quarterly samples is used to determine compliance with the New York State public drinking water standard. Samples are collected at 4 locations within our system – Tower Way, Vosburg Rd., Hudson River Rd. and Kennedy Ln.

In samples collected during September of 2017, the average level of TTHMs was 80.8 micrograms per liter (ug/l) at the Hudson River Rd. testing site. This level exceeds the New York State public drinking water standards of 80 ug/l. Exceedance of the standards is not an immediate health hazard, but indicates that actions should be taken by the supplier of water to reduce contaminant levels and lower the potential for long term exposure. The average level of TTHMs was below the MCL at the other three testing sites, and the average level of HAAs was below the MCL at all testing sites.

TTHMs are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine (the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State), which reacts with naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae, or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of TTHMs in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

*Some studies suggest that people who drank water containing trihalomethanes for long periods of time (e.g., 20 to 30 years) have an increased risk of certain health effects. These include an increased risk for cancer and for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. The methods used by these studies could not rule out the role of other factors that could have resulted in the observed increased risks. In addition, other similar studies do not show an increased risk for these health effects. Therefore, the evidence from these studies is not strong enough to conclude that trihalomethanes were a major factor contributing to the observed increased risks for these health effects. Studies of laboratory animals show that some trihalomethanes can cause cancer and adverse reproductive and developmental effects, but at exposures much higher than exposures that could result through normal use of the water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the information from the human and animal studies and concluded that while there is no causal link between disinfection byproducts (including trihalomethanes) and human health effects, the balance of the information warranted stronger regulations that limit the amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water, while still allowing for adequate disinfection. The risks for adverse health effects from trihalomethanes in drinking water are small compared to the risks for illness from drinking inadequately disinfected water.*

**What does this mean for you?**

At present, the water is suitable to drink, cook with, and bathe in. Some people may wish to take additional practical measures to reduce their exposure. We do not consider these measures necessary to avoid health

effects, but they are provided as options. These include using bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes, or using water pitchers containing an activated carbon filter or a tap-mounted activated carbon filter. These filters are readily available in many grocery and home improvement stores. Ventilating bathroom areas (e.g., using exhaust fans or opening windows) when showering or bathing can also help reduce exposures from chemicals released into the air.

**What is being done?**

The Town of Halfmoon currently purchases drinking water from the City of Troy. The City of Troy has been working closely with the Rensselaer County Health Department and the New York State Department of Health to reduce disinfection byproduct levels in consecutive systems like the Town of Halfmoon.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at (518) 233-7489 or the New York State Department of Health at (518) 793-3893. We thank you for your patience while we work on resolving this issue.