



MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health

Dr. John B. Endres, President of Board of Health

September 13, 2022

Mr. J. John Pinard, Town Supervisor
Town of Lenox
205 S. Peterboro St.
Canastota, New York 13032

**Re: Proposed Water District #14, (T) Lenox – OCWA New York State PWS #3304336
North Main Street, Colton Road**

Dear Mr. Pinard,

The intent of this correspondence is to express this Department's support for above proposed water district extension with water supplied by the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA). Extension of OCWA to the unserved areas will eliminate reliance on individual water systems presently serving residential properties that exhibit poor water quality characteristics, are known to be vulnerable to bacteriological contamination, and include shallow well systems subject to depletion due to drought.

This Department collected water samples from representative residences of the proposed Water District #14 and found seven of the eight samples collected tested positive for total coliform. The presence of total coliform is an indicator of the presence of potentially harmful bacteria and evidence that the source is subject to contamination that may cause illness. Per Part 75, Appendix 75-C *Individual Onsite Water Supply Systems – Statewide Water Quality Standards* as enacted by New York State (NYS), any positive result for coliform bacteria indicates said standards are not met. This sampling suggests that 87.5% of those onsite residential water systems tested within the proposed Water District #14 failed to meet the referenced water quality standard for bacteriological contaminants.

Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code enacted *Standards for Water Wells*, Appendix 5-B, and while the installation of the water systems serving the proposed Water District #14 properties were likely to have been completed prior to the adoption of such Standards, surveys of property owners indicated a majority of the well supply depths were unknown. Of those that were known, two had a depth of 20-25 feet and one was 6 foot in depth, making them susceptible to contamination from surface water influences. It can be assumed that properties with unknown well depths are also likely to take water from shallow depths similar to their neighboring wells. With regard to quality of water residents identified numerous issues. Most residents indicated that the water was hard and faucets were subject to corrosion due to calcium or lime scale buildup associated with hard water. Two residents indicated they do not drink the water as a result of previous positive sample results, one resident indicated the well water source has low yield issues. Three residents indicated that the water has a strong sulfur odor.



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Attached with this support letter please find a spreadsheet intended to summarize the findings of this Health Department secured through our water sampling efforts.

This office again appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in support of the Town's continued initiatives to expand public water service to residents of the Town of Lenox and in particular those residents located in the proposed Water District #14. We look forward to working with the Town and its design professional in the development of plans and funding applications necessary to move this project forward and commend you and the members of the Town Council for engaging in the extension of OCWA water service to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water to your residents.

Sincerely,



Aaron Lazzara
Director Environmental Health

Enc. WD #14 Residential Test Results Spreadsheet

Cc. John Dunkle, Dunn and Sgromo