



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Water Plant

One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

518-377-7400

Copper Time Line

Rev. 1/29/26

March 2023

Complaint received from 2587 Rosendale Rd regarding blue water March 3. Staff met with resident and investigated. Resident has long copper water service (about 600 ft) and larger size for two adults and one child. Discussed possible reasons including higher chlorine level (1.2 ppm leaving plant) sitting in long service line for extended periods before use and effectiveness of ortho-polyphosphate corrosion control inhibitor added at water plant. Staff ordered reagent from supplier to do an in-house copper bench test.

April 2023

Received testing supplies and took samples for testing at 2587 Rosendale Rd April 6.

First draw 1.91 ppm of copper

Second draw 0.26 ppm of copper (after water ran for 30 minute)

Tested hydrant in front of residence 0.04 ppm of copper

Notified Schenectady County Health Department of test results and requested guidance and assistance. Response back from County and State Department of Health indicating that they had not seen this before.

Summer 2023 thru 2024

Began effort to reduce the residual chlorine level of the treated water leaving the water plant by installing automatic flushing hydrants at 11 locations throughout the water distribution system. This allows the operators to continually draw fresh water to the extents of the system. Each flushing hydrant can take between one to two weeks to install at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 each.

Fall 2023 to Present

Monthly monitoring of chlorine residual and ortho-polyphosphate levels at flushing hydrants. Results show good residual levels throughout water system.

June 2024

Performed the regular (every 3 years) lead and copper samples June 28. 30 samples taken at residences based on existing approved list and tested at laboratory. All 30 samples were below lead and copper action levels of 0.015 ppm of lead and 1.3 ppm of copper. Schenectady County Department of Health identified that the testing frequency will remained at reduced monitoring (3 years) since the 90th percentile were below the action level.

December 2024

Lowered chlorine residual leaving the plant from 1.2 ppm to 1.0 ppm.

Received resident complaint at 2832 Rosendale Road about water heater corrosion. Resident stated they had replaced water heater multiple times in last few years.

April 2025

Received complaint at 2467 Rosendale Road about bluish green water in bathtub. Staff ran analysis of water in-house indicating copper level was elevated.

Town began process for a corrosion control study by issuing a request for proposal to engineering firms on April 25.

May 2025

Resident complaint at 2467 Rosendale Road of blue-green water on May 14. Staff tested copper level at 0.30 ppm with water running.

Resident complaint at 2467 Rosendale Road of blue-green water on May 22. Staff tested copper level at 2.59 ppm at first draw and 0.24 at second draw.

Town Board passes resolution to hire MJ Engineering for corrosion control study on May 27.

June/July 2025

Started lowering plant chlorine residual in increments of 0.05 ppm over several weeks from 1.0 ppm to 0.80ppm (presently) while continually monitoring and maintaining chlorine residual levels throughout the distribution system.

Corrosion control study kickoff meeting on June 16. Discussion with professionals identified that pH level could be a contributor for the elevated copper levels. Decision made to begin test of effects of corrosion on copper and mild steel by increasing pH to 7.4. Staff began constructing apparatus for test including piping, pump, day tank, and caustic soda.

Collected 6 first draw samples from houses in the vicinity of Rosendale Road and Lock 7 Road on June 12 for lab analysis of copper level. Results were received on June 25, 2025 by the Town and shared with Schenectady County Health Department on July 30, 2025.

1107 Rosehill Rd	0.95 ppm
1256 Lock 7 Rd	2.81 ppm
1271 Lock 7 Rd	1.28 ppm
2467 Rosendale Rd	1.79 ppm
2831 River Rd	2.36 ppm
2832 Rosendale RD	1.49 ppm

Note: Action Level for copper is 1.3 ppm

The County was also provided an update on our corrosion control study.

August 2025

Town spoke to County Department of Health requesting guidance and instruction for notifying residents on August 8. A conference call was scheduled for August 14 between the Town, County DOH, and State DOH officials. The guidance from the call with the State was that Niskayuna was not out of compliance because of the test results from June since the official testing of 30 locations in 2024 showed no results above the action level.

8/26/25, Town requested a call with the State DOH to receive additional guidance regarding the recent copper testing results and proposed plans to conduct additional testing. This call took place on September 3.

September 2025

Began introducing pH adjusted water for corrosion control test on September 1. Flow rate of 5 gpm at pH of 7.4.

Conference call on September 3 with County and State Department of Health indicating that they will send the Town a template letter that can be sent out to the residents where the copper levels were tested. State DOH offered to provide staff to assist in follow-up water sampling.

Town submitted list of proposed additional testing sites to State DOH, September 16. (Town expanded this list to 26 properties.

Town received template letter and delivered to residents with test results from September 16 to 22. September 9, Town conducted a conference call with State DOH and MJ Engineering to provide the State with additional information on the ongoing corrosion study. Discussion included which steps the Town needs to take to expedite DOH review and approval of any proposed corrosion related treatment changes at the Town's water treatment plant.

October 2025

Town begins second round of sampling for copper at 26 residences on October 7 and 8 with assistance from State Department of Health. Samples delivered to laboratory the same day as collected.

Round 3 copper sampling of 22 locations on October 15 and submitted to laboratory the same day.

Round 4 copper sampling of 18 locations on October 23 and submitted to laboratory the same day.

Received test results of 4 locations on October 23 and delivered notifications to residents on October 24.

Received test results of remaining Round 2 tests on October 28 and 29. Residents notified October 30 and 31.

Received test results of 16 locations of Round 3 on October 30.

November 2025

Pulled first set of metal coupons from testing stream and sent to laboratory during first week in November.

Received Round 4 results on November 11 and shared results to DOH and residents on November 12.

Received Round 5 results on November 18 and shared results to DOH and residents on November 18.

Received results from laboratory of first set of metal coupons on November 20.

December 2025

Received Round 6 results on December 8 and shared results to DOH and residents on December 8.

January 2026

Removed second set of metal coupons from testing stream and sent to laboratory during first week in January.

First week in January ordered new set of coupons for corrosion study at JP.

Installed corrosion test system at JP with new coupons to test city water on 1/15/26

February 2026

Started first round LCRR testing. 60 sites tested across 3 weeks as part of standardized testing protocol per NYSDOH. First round results were emailed and hand delivered to residents. Results concluded with lead below the 90th percentile leading to no exceedance per LCRR. Copper results were just below the 90th percentile leading to no exceedance per LCRR.

March 2026

Pulled first set of coupons on 3/18/2026 and sent to laboratory.

May 2026

Pulled second set of coupons on 5/14/2026 and sent to laboratory.

Results of coupons from JP corrosion study sent to MJ on 5/26/2026

July 2026

Completed second round LCRR testing. 60 sites tested across 3 weeks as part of standardized testing protocol per NYSDOH. First round results were emailed and hand delivered to residents. Results concluded with lead below the 90th percentile leading to no exceedance per LCRR. Copper results were just below the 90th percentile leading to no exceedance per LCRR.

Final Report from MJ Engineering received on 7/15/2026

* Updated January 2026-July 2026 on 8/7/2026