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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LATHAM WATER DISTRICT BACK IN COMPLIANCE WITH DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT
REGULATION**

COLONIE (December 28, 2004) – The Latham Water District (LWD) announces that it is back below the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes. After an exceedence during the third quarter sampling period, fourth quarter sampling conducted during December came in low bringing the system back in compliance with the regulation.

Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants). Trihalomethanes are commonly found in drinking water supplies throughout the United States in concentrations ranging from 1 to 540 parts per billion (ppb). Factors that affect the potential levels of trihalomethanes are organic matter in the raw water, pH, temperature, time and chlorine residual.

"We were ecstatic once we saw our December sampling results and the resultant trihalomethane running annual average which was determined to be 79.8 ppb," said John Frazer, Jr., Superintendent, Town of Colonie, Division of Latham Water. "The Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts Rule, as administered by the New York State Health Department, requires that the trihalomethane average values for Latham Water District's four sites for the last four quarters not be greater than 80ppb." Frazer went on to highlight the results of additional testing completed in mid December which show that trihalomethanes are at their lowest December levels since the regulation was changed in January 2002. "To assess how we were doing we took additional samples in mid December and the results were fantastic. Our sample average was 45ppb or just over half of the 80ppb standard. It appears that our new acid feed system, our flushing program and several other operational changes that we have made at our treatment plant have paid great dividends." He said that it took a complete team effort from all District staff especially those at the treatment plant who have had to endure a new treatment process.

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Latham Water District Release
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Town Supervisor, Mary Brizzell was just as happy to be back in compliance. "We are very proud of the Town of Colonie and although we have had to deal with this water quality issue, I believe that it has made us better and improved our overall water quality immensely.

Additional information about trihalomethanes is also available by calling the Albany County Health Department at (518) 447-4620 or going to www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr/dbp.html and www.awwa.org/Advocacy/pressroom/thms.cfm

District customers having questions on any of the above can contact the Latham Water District at (518) 783-2750.