IN5237005
Rensselaer Water Department
Water Plant Operator: Ryan Ritter (219) 866–5530
2024 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Important Information for The Spanish – Speaking Population:
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad del agua potable que usted consume. Por favor tradúzcalo, o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien y pueda explicarle. Si desea solicitar este documento en español, llame a la oficina de servicios públicos al (219) 866–5530**.**

Is Our Drinking Water Safe?
This report is a snapshot of the quality of drinking water that we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about where the water you consume comes from, what it contains and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) standards. We are committed to provide you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as people with cancer undergoing treatment, people who have undergone organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS or other kind of immune system disorder, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants which are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4691).

Important Information About Lead
There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The Children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Water Department at (219) 866-5530. Customers may also access the Public Transparency Dashboard to learn more about their service line materials by visiting https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/rensselaer-in-ptd.

Important Information About PFAS
Our system collected samples under the U.S EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples in July, 2022 and did not detect any of the compounds. If you would like to view our results, contact the Water Department at (219) 866-5530.

Where Does Our Water Come From?
The City of Rensselaer is a ground water system composed of three wells. All City wells are drilled into the bedrock system of Sulrian & Devonian Carbonate Aquifer of the Muscatuk Group.

Why Are There Contaminants in Drinking Water?
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4691).

How Can I Stay Informed?
The public are invited to attend, participate and address any matter to the City Council during any of their scheduled council meetings. These meetings are held every 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M CST at City Hall.

Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water
The sources of drinking water (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

- Microbial Contaminants: Viruses & Bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic Contaminants: Salts & Metals, which can be naturally occurring as a result from urban runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil & gas production, mining and farming.
- Pesticides & Herbicides: May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic Chemical Contaminants: Synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. Also comes from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants: Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil & gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA guidelines to public health and ensure safe drinking water. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottled water, which must provide the same level of protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The following table lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing conducted between January 1 – December 31, 2023. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the dates, though representative of the water quality may however be more than one year old.

Definitions:
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
MCLG; Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – the maximum level of a contaminant in drinking water to which no known or anticipated adverse on public health would occur.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal – the maximum level of a disinfectant added for water treatment to which no known or anticipated health effects occur.
AL: Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
TT: Treatment Technique – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – a measure of clarity (or cloudiness) of water.
PPM: Parts Per Million – a measure of concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.
PPB: Parts Per Billion – a measure of concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter.
pCi/L: Picocuries Per liter – a measure of radiation.
P*: Potential Violation – one that is likely to occur in the near future once the system has sampled for four quarters.
N/A: Not Available or Not Applicable.
ND: Not Detected – the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.
Level 1 Assessment: is a study of the water system to identify potential problems & determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria has been found in our water system.
Average: Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average.

Lead & Copper

Lead & Copper	Sample Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of AL Sites	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Copper	7/14/2023	1.3	1.3	0.146	0	Ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits: Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	7/14/2023	0	15	2.36	1	Ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits

- **Special Note: The City is actively identifying and replacing all confirmed lead & galvanized service lines. The City also feeds an orthophosphate blend to sequester the interior of mains & service lines to prevent the leaching of lead into drinking water.**

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	**Sample Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of Level Detected**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Units**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
Chlorine	2024	1.0	0.20-2.20	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Disinfection method to control microbes
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	7/9/24	9.0 LRAA	8.97-8.97	No goal for total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	7/9/24	25.0 LRAA	25.1-25.1	No goal for total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	**Sample Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of Level Detected**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Units**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
Barium	1/18/22	0.041	0.041-0.041	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	1/18/22	0.463	0.463-0.463	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	7/10/24	<0.5	<0.5-<0.5	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants	**Sample Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of Level Detected**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Units**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
Gross Alpha Excluding Radon & Uranium	1/22/20	0.78	0.78-0.78	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological	Sample Date	Result		MCLG	MCL			Likely Source
Coliform (TCR)	2024	In the month of May (2) sample(s) returned as positive		0	Treatment Technique Trigger			Naturally present in the environment

- **Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment & are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed & this was a warning of potential problems. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in the water treatment or disinfection. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems & to correct any problems that were found during the assessments. During the past year we were required to conduct level 1 assessment(s) one level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take zero corrective actions & we completed zero of these actions.**

Availability of a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP)

A Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared for our drinking water system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a high (detection) susceptibility risk. More information of this assessment can be obtained by contacting Bryce Black at (219) 866-5530 at your earliest convenience. You can obtain additional information by contacting the IDEM Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430.

Our Watershed Protection Efforts

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

Please Share This Information

Large water volume customers (i.e. apartment complexes, hospital, schools, and/or industries) are encouraged to post extra copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students and/or employees. This ''good faith" effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of water that they consume.