

IN5237005
Rensselaer Water Department
Water Plant Operator: Ryan Ritter (219) 866-5530
2023 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

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home lines. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 1-2 minutes before using the water for cooking or drinking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, 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 amount 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.

Lead & Copper

Lead & Copper	Sample Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th 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 suspected lead service lines. The City is also feeding an orthophosphate to sequester the interior of mains and service lines to prevent the leaching of lead into drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	1.95	0.22-1.95	MRDLG =4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Disinfection method to control microbes
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	7/10/23	19.6	10.4-19.6	No goal for total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	7/10/23	26.3	25.5-26.3	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 of Contamination
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 on natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	3/2/21	<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 of Contamination
Gross Alpha Excluding Radon and Uranium	1/22/20	0.78	0.78-0.78	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

- Special Note: The City collected 84 routine bacteria samples, in the month of February 1 sample(s) returned as positive. The City performed repeat sampling at the sampling site as well as upstream and downstream. All samples returned absent for Coliform bacteria.

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.