

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016  
Rensselaerville Water District  
Rensselaerville, New York  
(Public Water Supply ID# NY0100202)*

**INTRODUCTION** - To comply with State and Federal regulations, Rensselaerville WD annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?** - In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The source of our water is Lake Myosotis, which is located at the headwaters of Ten Mile Creek. The Rensselaerville water treatment facility employs a multi step process to purify your water. The water from Lake Myosotis initially passes through settling chamber to remove particles. The water is further cleaned by slow sand filter. After filtration the water is disinfected with chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) and stored in a 50,000 gallon clearwell before distribution to your homes.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?** - As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds (petroleum products and solvents), and synthetic organic compounds (herbicides and pesticides). The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. A separate table is also included showing contaminants that were tested and not detected. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Albany County Health Department at (518) 447-4620.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	No	Daily	<1	NTU	N/A	TT = at least 95% of samples < 1.0	Erosion of soils
Barium	No	3/2/16	0.015	mg/L	2	2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>2</sup>	No	6/3/16	0.0015	mg/L	0	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper <sup>2</sup>	No	6/3/16	1.24	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	No	2/14/11	<0.2	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits, or runoff from agricultural practices
THMs	No	10/12/16	51	ug/L	N/A	80 (MCL)	Bi-product of chlorination
HAAs	No	10/12/16	53	ug/L	N/A	60 (MCL)	Bi-product of chlorination

**Notes:**

2 - During 2016, 5 samples were collected and analyzed for Lead & Copper. The value above represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. In other words 90% or more of our samples were below the action level for both lead and copper.

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**Definitions:** ≤ - Less than

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Table of Contaminants Monitored But Not Detected**

Contaminant	Date of Last Sample	Required Frequency	Comment
Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly	Monthly	Testing for E. coli required if Total Coliform is detected
Inorganic Chemicals – Group 1	3/2/16	3 Years	Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Fluoride, Selenium, Mercury
Inorganic Chemicals – Group 2	3/2/16	3 Years	Antimony, Beryllium, Cyanide, Nickel, Thallium, Sulfate
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	3/2/16	3 Years	Group of 33 Pesticides & Herbicides
Principal Organic Chemicals	3/2/16	6 Years	Group of 57 Solvents, petroleum products and Vinyl Chloride
Gross Alpha & Beta Radioactivity	5/24/13	9 Years	Naturally occurring

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?** - As you can see by the tables our system had no contaminant level violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?** – Our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements during 2016.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?** – Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**LEAD AND DRINKING WATER** - 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 plumbing. Elgin Management is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?** - Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells and pumps.
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run dishwashers and clothes washing machines when there is a full load.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Use water saving fixtures
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

**CLOSING** - Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We ask that all our residents help us protect our water sources. Please contact Victoria Kraker at 797-3798 or 239-4225 or Albany County Health Department ta 447-4620 if you have any questions on any of the above.