

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PWSID: 1230011

City of Rushford 2013 Drinking Water Report

The City of Rushford is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2013. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

SOURCE OF WATER

The City of Rushford provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source:

Well #2 located at Grandview & Money Creek St., a 626' well drilled in 1954 with a capacity of 400 gpm. Well #4 located at Highway 43 & Center St., a 586', 14" steel cased well drilled in 2000 with a capacity of 800 gpm. Well #5 located at 205 Watt Street, a 600' well drilled in 2008/2009 with a capacity of 500 gpm. The wells draw water from the Franconian-Mt. Simon aquifer.

The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that the source(s) used to supply your drinking water is not particularly susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

WATER STORAGE

The City has two reservoirs for the storage of potable water. The newest reservoir constructed in 1999 is located on the side of Magelssen's Bluff at the west end of Grove Street, and is a masonry construction with a cast in place reinforced cover on top of a concrete wall, with a capacity of 275,000 gallons. The second reservoir is a steel, elevated, single pedestal reservoir constructed in 1970, with a capacity of 100,000 gallons.

RECENT AND FUTURE UPGRADES

Several major projects have been undertaken to improve water quality and system stability:

1. Following the August 2007 flood event, it was determined that Well #3 was contaminated and affecting the quality of water from Well #4. Despite efforts for rehabilitation, it was decided to abandon Well #3, which in turn stopped the contamination of Well #4. A new well, Well #5, was then drilled at a higher elevation to avoid future flood damages.
2. A new water treatment plant, located near Well #5, is designed to remove radium, iron and manganese from the municipal water supply. Iron and manganese from the City's groundwater has caused "red water" problems in Rushford for many years. The radium level in Well #4 exceeds the Federal primary drinking water standards. Water from Well #4 is piped to the new treatment plant. The treatment plant can provide 500 gallons a minute of treatment capacity which the City has financed through a drinking water revolving fund loan.
3. The City has also made efforts to properly seal the large wells and sand point wells, which were determined to be a source of contamination to the public water supply following the flood event.
4. Improvement Bonds issued in 2009 and 2011 involved the replacement of aging water mains and some sewer mains throughout the City. The projects helped mitigate I/I problems, water quality problems as well as providing for the replacement of lead water fixtures.
5. A coordinated effort with the MN Dept of Transportation will involve the replacement of some of the largest and oldest water and sewer mains in the City on Highway 43/Mill Street in 2014.

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RESULTS OF MONITORING

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

nd—No Detection.

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2013)	Average /Result*	
Barium (ppm)	2	2	N/A	.02	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	N/A	1.7	Erosion of natural deposits.

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Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2013)	Average /Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.94-1.1	1.05	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	nd-1.3	1.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	6.9-7.8	7.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.1-.5	.3	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (06/15/2011)	1.3	1.3	.13	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (06/15/2011)	0	15	2	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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. City of Rushford 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, you may wish to have your water tested. 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>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

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Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In an effort to reach as many consumers as possible, this report is being published in the local newspaper. The report will not be distributed to all customers, but is available upon request. It is also available for review at the Rushford City Hall, the Rushford Public Library and on the City's website www.rushford.govoffice.com.

Call 507-864-2444 if you have questions about the City of Rushford drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.