

## 2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

**PWSID #: 4180064 NAME: Rote Mutual Water Association**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

### **WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robert Reem at 570-726-7004. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the second Monday of each month at the water plant 7pm. February annual meeting is held at the Lamar Township building 7pm.

### **SOURCES OF WATER:**

Our water sources are three springs in Lamar Township.

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to Spraying of weeds by PA DCNR. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: [Source Water Assessment Folder](#). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and Pa. DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP North Central Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 327-3636.

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* (800-426-4791).

### **Monitoring Your Water:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

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

*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 using the best available treatment technology.

*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 contaminants.

*Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)* - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**Level 1 Assessment** – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Mrem/year* = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

*pCi/L* = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

*ppb* = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

*ppm* = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

#### DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	4	4	1.52	1.0-1.52	ppm	2/2024	N	Additive to control microbes
HAA5	60	0	13.6	a	ppb	7/11/2024	N	Byproduct of disinfection
TTHM	80	0	11.8	a	ppb	7/11/2024	N	Byproduct of disinfection
Radium-226	5	0	1.27	a	pCi/L	7/15/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

a-No range of detections because only one sample was taken throughout the year.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	0.48	0.48-1.8	ppm	12/10/2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>Lead and Copper</b>								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Range of tap sampling results	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	1.41	<0.2-2.04	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.566	0.15-0.607	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

<b>Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)</b>					
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>TT</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Assessments/ Corrective Actions</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments <b>or</b> correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under “Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions” section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

<b>Microbial (related to <i>E. coli</i>)</b>					
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Positive Sample(s)</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
<i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive <b>and</b> either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive <b>or</b> system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample <b>or</b> system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>TT</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Assessments/ Corrective Actions</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
<i>E. coli</i>	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments <b>or</b> correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See description under “Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions” section	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

<b>Turbidity</b>						
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Source of Contamination</b>
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.878	5/4/2024	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples $\leq$ 0.3 NTU		92.98	1/2024	Y	

#### **DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

#### **OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

We missed the PFAS / PFOS sampling in the second Quarter of 2024. Results showed non-detects in the first, third, and fourth quarters of 2024 and in the first quarter of 2025. The required 4 consecutive quarterly samples will be finished with a sample in the second quarter of 2025.

In March of 2025 our water leaving the plant met the 0.3 NTU requirement in 94.5% of our 15 minute measurements. We are required to meet this limit in at least 95% of samples. We do our best to meet this regulation, but with back to back storms our options were to put the system in danger of running out of water, have water trucked into the system, (which is very expensive), or be slightly under this requirement.

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

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 run-off, 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, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP 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* (800-426-4791).

**Information about Lead**

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. [NAME OF UTILITY] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and it removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact [NAME OF UTILITY and CONTACT INFORMATION]. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Rote Mutual Water Company prepared a service line inventory of our system that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed online by contacting our office at 570-726-7004.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

### **Rote Mutual Water Co., Inc. Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Spring #1 and Spring#2

#### **What should I do?**

**You do not need to boil water or take actions.** We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

*People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*

#### **What does this mean?**

*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*

#### **What happened? What is being done?**

A problem occurred with the treatment system at the water plant. In March 2025 2 back to back storms caused raw water turbidity to be too high to meet our 95% requirement for the finished water to be below 0.3 NTU.  
We anticipate resolving the problem by The problem is already corrected. Our finished turbidity % was 94.5% for the month.

For more information, please contact Robert Reem at 570-726-7122.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Rote Mutual Water Co., Inc.

PWS ID#: 4180064

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_