Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
City of Rome Water System

198 North Washington Street, Rome, NY 13440
(Public Water Supply ID# NY3202405)

City of Rome Report – Use with Supplemental System reports for additional required reporting information

New 500k Gallon Elevated Storage Tank

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the City of Rome Bureau of Water will be annually issuing 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. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your drinking water, please contact Joseph Guiliano, Commissioner of Public Works at 315-339-7627 or Justin Pacicca, Chief Water Plant Operator at 315-339-7777. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. Copies of this report will be available upon request at the City Clerk's Office at Rome City Hall. In addition, the report will be available on the City of Rome's website (http://romenewyork.com)

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of all 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 number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The City's water supply originates over 20 miles north of the City, in the Tug Hill area of Lewis County. The Tug Hill Region is one of the most remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. One hundred square miles of the 155 square mile watershed of the East Branch of the Fish Creek flows into Tagasoke Reservoir, a 1.4 billion-gallon impoundment. As the creek flows from this reservoir it converges with the flow from an additional 55 square miles of watershed to Kessinger Dam which is eight miles downstream. Here, the water is diverted into a rock tunnel which was rehabbed in 2015 with shotcrete for approximately 1 mile. Water then flows from the tunnel into a 48-inch reinforced concrete cylinder pipe, and on to the filtration plant. Fish Creek is typically a low solids, low turbidity water source, with significant amounts of color. As it is a surface supply, it is very susceptible to seasonal and weather-related stream flow variation. Last year, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

A Source Water Assessment has been completed by the New York State Department of Health for the City of Rome Water System. Possible and actual threats to drinking water source(s) were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the source(s). The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is designed to compile, organize and evaluate information to make better decisions regarding protecting sources of public drinking water. The report does not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The source water assessment report is based on reasonably available information, primarily from statewide databases. Although efforts have been made to check the source water assessment report for accuracy, the large scope of this program and the nature of the available data make the elimination of all errors from these reports nearly impossible. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

The land uses around the City of Rome Water System source were rated for their potential to cause contamination to the source. This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Finally, it should be noted that hydrologic characteristics (e.g. basin shape and flushing rates) generally make reservoirs highly sensitive to existing and new sources of phosphorus and microbial contamination. See section "*Are there contaminants in our drinking water?*" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Based upon the SWAP Report determinations, good judgment should be used and caution should be exercised when determining land use near the source. We work hard to ensure that the source

of water for our system is protected from contamination. In fact, the City of Rome has existing Watershed Rules and Regulations (10NYCRR Chapter III Part 130.1) that regulate the land use and potential contamination sources around the water source. This is accomplished through a combination of land ownership and policing of the watershed area. One-third of the area is rural while two-thirds are managed forest lands. The City of Rome has control of the Tagasoke Reservoir. Access to the area is limited. Transmission pipes and waterways are also protected.

WATER TREATMENT

Turbidity is a measurement of the amount of light that is scattered. This scattering is due to suspended particles in the water. These particles, microscopic in size, may be made up of silt, algae, bacteria, and / or protozoa. To remove this turbidity, Rome built the Frank Clark Water Filtration Plant, which went on-line in 1987. The water enters the flocculation / sedimentation basins to remove the majority of the turbidity at the Water Filtration Plant then flows through adsorption clarifiers then on to the filters. The filtered water then enters the reservoirs, which have a combined storage capacity of 65 million gallons.

Although the filtration process alone removes 99.9% of the turbidity, the New York State Sanitary Code for Public Water Systems (Subpart 5-1) requires that the water be disinfected to kill bacteria that may still be present in the water. This is accomplished through Chlorination and Ultraviolet Light Treatment as the water leaves the reservoirs. An Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection Facility was completed in 2019. The facility was constructed in order to comply with the USEPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). UV disinfection uses UV light to inactivate pathogens such as Cryptosporidium by disrupting their DNA strands, making them non-viable and non-infectious.

Rome also treats the water to control the corrosion of plumbing that may contain metals such as lead or copper. Lead rarely occurs naturally in water. It enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion or wearing away of materials containing lead such as lead service lines, solder and brass plumbing fixtures in the home. Rome adds zinc orthophosphate, which is a corrosion inhibitor, in small amounts to react with the corrosive components of the water and piping to halt this corrosion process.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The City of Rome, New York supplies drinking water to approximately 32,000 people through approximately 10,000 service connections, located within the City of Rome (including Griffiss Industrial Park). Additional service is provided to customers in water districts in the towns of Western, Lee, Floyd, and Westmoreland as well as the Mohawk Correctional Facility. During 2024, the Rome Water System provided 2.98 billion gallons of treated water. The total water consumed and billed by metered accounts was approximately 1.65 billion gallons. As the majority of Rome's Water System is not metered, the balance of the water, roughly 1.33 billion gallons, was either billed and consumed through flat-rate water accounts, used for fighting fires, flushing mains, or was lost through leaks in the distribution system. We have no way to account for the water lost through leaks. The average daily consumption in the Water System for 2024 was 8.17 million gallons per day. (4.51 MGD metered) The highest total monthly flow was in July, with 268.1 million gallons provided. However, our highest single day flow occurred on June 19th with a total effluent of 9.50 Million Gallons. In 2024, metered water customers were charged between $1.47 and $6.20 per 1,000 gallons of water used (plus meter fees). Single-family homes were charged an annual fee of $511.88 for water use. Water rates did not change in 2024.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As required by the State of New York Department of Health, and The Environmental Protection Agency, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, lead and copper, nitrate, nitrite, disinfection byproducts, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. We detected several of those contaminants, but most were not detected in our water. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. 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 Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064.

Table of Detected Contaminants (City of Rome)

Contaminant	Is System in Violation?	Date of Sample	Level Detected Average or Maximum (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG / MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	3/20	ND	pCi/l	0	MCL = 15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta particle and photon activity from manmade radionuclides	No	3/20	ND	pCi/l	0	MCL = 50 (1)	Decay of natural deposits.
Radium – 228	No	3/20	1.03	pCi/l	0	MCL = 5	Decay of natural deposits.

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Physical Parameters							
Turbidity (EP) [2]	No	12/30/24	0.10 (highest single measurement)	NTU	N/A	TT = <1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity (EP) [2]		All months	100% ≤ 0.3 (lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting specified limits)			TT = 95% of samples <0.3 NTU	
Turbidity (Distribution)		Daily / monthly	0.24 [3] (range = 0.07 – 0.74)			TT = <5 NTU	
Total Organic Carbon (Raw Water)	No	Monthly	3.9 [4] (range = 2.8 –6.2)	mg/l	N/A	TT (relative to removal rates)	Naturally Occurring
Total Organic Carbon (Finished Water)			1.3 [4] (range = <1.0 – 1.8)				
Inorganic Contaminants							
Chloride	No	6/18	2.4	mg/l	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring; Salt
Copper	No	9/24	0.10 [5] (range = 0.0029 – 0.186)	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	9/24	5.0 [6] (range = ND – 99.8)	ug/l	0	AL = 5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	6/18	4.5	mg/l	N/A[7]	N/A	Naturally Occurring; Salt
Sulfate	No	6/18	12	mg/l	N/A	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring.
Barium	No	12/24	0.0039	mg/l	0	MCL = 2	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Zinc	No	6/18	0.23	mg/l	N/A	MCL=5	Naturally Occurring
Disinfectants							
Chlorine Residual	No	Daily/ Monthly	0.86 [8] (range =0.06 – 1.75)	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4 [9]	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	No	Quarterly	28.3 [10] (range = 5.1 - 44.3)	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform)	No	Quarterly	35.6 [10] (range = 16 - 77.5)	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

Table of Detected Contaminants (City of Rome)

Contaminant	Is System In Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected Average or Maximum (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG / MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Semivolatile Organic Compounds							
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	No	12/24	1.5	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No		ND	ug/l	N/A	N/A	
1,4 DIOXANE	No		ND	ug/l	1.0 ug/l	1.0 ug/l	
Unregulated Contaminants UCMR5 Data							
Lithium, Total	No	1/24	ND	ug/l	0.000 ug/l	9.00 ug/l	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NMeFOSAA)	No		ND	ug/l	0.000 ug/l	0.006 ug/l	
N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid (NEtFOSAA)	No		ND	ug/l	0.000 ug/l	0.005 ug/l	
Perfluorotridecanoic Acid (PFTrDA)	No		ND	ug/l	0.000 ug/l	0.007 ug/l	
Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid (PFTA)	No		ND	ug/l	0.000 ug/l	0.008 ug/l	

Notes:

1 - The State considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

2 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single entry point (pre-distribution system) turbidity measurement of 0.10 for the year occurred December 30th 2024). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 5 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the filtered water turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

3 - Turbidity is measured on a daily basis in the distribution system. All levels recorded last year were within the acceptable range allowed.

4 - This level represents the average and range of values calculated from monthly sample submission results.

5 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the thirty (30) sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, the 90th percentile was the fourth highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the thirty (30) sites tested.

6 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the thirty (30) sites tested. One sample site exceeded the action level. Resampling results of same site were ND (Non-Detected) The higher, initial result was used for full transparency in calculating 90th percentile.

7 – Water containing more than 20mg/l should not be used by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270mg/l should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

8 - This level represents the annual average and range of values calculated from monthly sample submission results.

9 – The value presented represents the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) which is a level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects. MRDLs are currently not regulated but in the future they will be enforceable in the same manner as MCLs.

10 – The value presented represents the highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) and range of measurements for samples collected. Compliance with the Stage 2 DBP Rule MCL for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) and Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) is based upon the LRAA of the quarterly samples collected during four consecutive quarters. Although samples may include a result that exceeds the MCL, the result is averaged with the other samples to determine compliance with the MCL. Our system was in compliance with the MCLs for both HAA5 and TTHMs.

11 - This level represents the range of values calculated from 2020 quarterly sample submission results for the Federal Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) sampling.

Definitions:		
Action Level	**AL**	The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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.
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.
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).
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	**NTU**	A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Non-Detected	**ND**	Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
Picocuries per liter	**pCi/l**	A measure of the radioactivity in water.
Treatment Technique	**TT**	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking.

What Does This Information Mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no 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?

Last year, our system was in general compliance with State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. The system had zero Total Coliform or E-Coli detections in any of it's bacteriological samples.

Unregulated Contaminant Information

In 2018 we monitored for algae species Anatoxin-a, Cylindrospermopsin, microcystin, which were not detected in any of the samples collected. In April, July and October 2019 we sampled total organic carbon, germanium, manganese, alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane, profenofos, chlorpyrifos, tebuconazole, dimethipin, total permethrin (cis & trans-), ethoprop, tribufos, oxyfluoren, HAA5, HAA6Br, HAA9, 1-butanol, 2-propen-1-ol, 2-methoxyethanol, butylated hydroxyanisole , o-toluidine and quinolone from either source water, entry point, or pre-determined sites in the distribution system. One more round of sampling was done in January 2020. Detections are noted in the Table of Detected Contaminants. Monitoring results may be obtained by calling Justin Pacicca, Chief Operator at 315-339-7777

System Improvements:

The following were done to improve the capacity and operations of the City of Rome Water System in 2024.

- : Purchased and installed 9 new differential pressure cells to monitor/control flow rates
- : Purchased and installed 1 new laser benchtop turbidimeter for process control
- : Cleaned, inspected, and installed new anodes in Coleman Mills Rd. storage tank
- : Constructed new chlorine monitoring and booster station building at Coleman Mills Rd. storage tank
- : Continued Northwest Rome Water System Improvements. Including construction of a new pump station, new water storage tank, and new water mains.
- : Replaced filter backwash gaseous chlorine disinfection system with new sodium hypochlorite system. Improving plant safety and reducing vulnerability.
- : Purchased new weight scale and display for chlorine feed system.
- : Purchased 1 new "Low-Lift" pump. These pumps feed settled water into the clarifiers at a rate of up to 10 million gallons per day each.

Closing

We ALL thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year and into the future. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office at (315) 339-7777 if you have any questions or concerns.

LEAD INFORMATION

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Rome is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Rome Water Filtration Department at (315) 339-7777 ext. 0. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

LEAD SERVICE LINE INFORMATION

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and nonpotable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and have made it publicly accessible by visiting our website. Please visit https://romenewyork.com/lead-free-rome/ to learn more about the inventory and what you can do to help!

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 saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire-fighting needs are met.

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:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check 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.
- If you have a meter, use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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).

For customers of purchasing water districts (i.e. Floyd Water District, Spencer Settlement Water District, Lee Water District, and Mohawk Correctional Facility), see respective reports for additional information regarding additional sampling, treatment and contact information.

The City of Rome report includes required reporting language not included in supplemental reports for each water system. Therefore, the City of Rome AWQR must be attached to all purchase water system reports.

50 Million Gallon Filtered Water Reservoir

Filter Gallery

Downstream View at Kessinger Dam

Kessinger Reservoir Drained for Maintenance