

# City of Romulus

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Dear Resident:

Please find enclosed the 2015 Water Quality Report for the City of Romulus which was developed to provide you with important information about the quality of our drinking water. This report meets all Federal and State regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act requiring water utilities to provide detailed information to their customers.

Please take a moment to read this brochure. I am pleased to inform you that our water service meets and/or exceeds all Federal and State standards for water quality and safety.

In order to ensure that our tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency of the U.S. government prescribes regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public health systems. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department treats your water in accordance with EPA and State of Michigan regulations. The Food and Drug Administration also regulates limits for contaminants in bottled water to protect the public health.

Let me assure you that the City of Romulus is working hard to make sure that you receive the highest quality of water service. If you have any questions regarding the information presented herein, you may contact the Department of Public Works at 734-942-7579, or as always, feel free to contact my office at 734-942-7571.

Sincerely,



Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff  
City of Romulus

LINDA R. CHOATE  
Councilwoman

JOHN BARDEN  
Mayor Pro Tem

WILLIAM WADSWORTH  
Councilman

CELESTE ROSCOE  
Councilwoman

HARRY CROUT  
Councilman

KATHY ABDO  
Councilwoman

SYLVIA J. MAKOWSKI  
Councilwoman

## 2015 Water Quality Report for the City of Romulus

The City of Romulus Department of Public Works wants you to know that your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all Federal and State standards for quality and safety. The Romulus D.P.W. is proud of the fine drinking water it supplies and we are honored to bring this report to you. Last year as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards. This 2015 Water Quality Report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information regarding water and health. We are pleased to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards as mandated by the EPA and the State of Michigan DEQ. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPQ prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 800-426-4791. 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 that 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 that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organics that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems, and radioactive contaminants that 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 prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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). 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. The City of Romulus 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>.

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of any potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from moderately low to very high based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meeting drinking water standards.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested (at your expense) and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791).

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. Beginning in July of 2008, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) began monitoring quarterly for unregulated contaminants under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2). All the UCMR2 contaminants monitored on List 1 and List 2 in 2008 were undetected.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Crypto-sporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve-month period at our Detroit River intake plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immune-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immune-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

If you would like to know more about this report, please visit the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's website at [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org).

## Springwells Water Treatment Plant 2015 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	05/11/2015	ppm	4	4	0.45	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	05/11/2015	ppm	10	10	0.33	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	ppb	n/a	80	40	27	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	ppb	n/a	60	11	10.78	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Disinfectant Residuals – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Quarterly Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	Jan.-Dec. 2015	ppm	4	4	0.74	0.66-0.79	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2015 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.18 NTU	100 %	no	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

2015 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	0	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E.coli</i> Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E.coli</i> positive.	0	NO	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

2014 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	ppb	0	15	2.8	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	ppb	1.3	1300	74.5	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no TOC removal requirement.	Erosion of natural deposits

**2015 Special Monitoring**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Sodium (ppm)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>4.74</b>	Erosion of natural deposits

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Quality, ML Semegen

**Southwest Water Treatment Plant  
2015 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables**

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	05/11/2015	ppm	4	4	0.54	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	05/11/2015	ppm	10	10	0.43	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	ppb	n/a	80	40	27	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	ppb	n/a	60	11	10.78	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

<b>Disinfection – Monitoring in Distribution System by Treatment Plant</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDGL	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Quarterly Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	Jan.-Dec. 2015	ppm	4	4	0.67	0.56-0.79	no	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>2015 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.14 NTU	100%	no	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

<b>2015 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System</b>					
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	0	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E.coli</i> positive.	0	NO	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

<b>2014 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	ppb	0	15	2.8	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	ppb	1.3	1300	74.5	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

\*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Combined Radium Radium 226 and 228	5/13/2014	pCi/L	0	5	0.65 + or - 0.54	no	Erosion of natural deposits

**2015 Special Monitoring**

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	5.41	Erosion of natural deposits

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Quality Division, ML Semegen.

## 2015 Key to the Detected Contaminants Table

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
<b>AL</b>	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>HAA5</b>	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>LRAA</b>	Locational Running Annual Average	
<b>MCL</b>	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.
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
<b>n/a</b>	not applicable	
<b>ND</b>	Not Detected	
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
<b>pCi/L</b>	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
<b>ppb</b>	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
<b>ppm</b>	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
<b>RAA</b>	Running Annual Average	
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>TTHM</b>	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
<b>µmhos</b>	Micromhos	Measure of electrical conductance of water
<b>°C</b>	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.

### WATER SAVING TIPS

Toilet Leaks are the most common reason for water loss in a household. To determine if you have a leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank; DO NOT FLUSH. Wait for about 10-30 minutes; if the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, you have a silent water leak.

An automatic dishwasher uses approximately 9-12 gallons of water; washing dishes by hand can use as much as 20 gallons.

### PROTECTING OUR SOURCE WATER

Keep fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides off of paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. When choosing a fertilizer, select a slow-release formula, one with a low phosphorous concentration.

Clean and repair vehicles ONLY in areas where spilled chemicals cannot flow toward storm drains. Have your septic tank inspected if it shows signs of failure such as lush grass around the drain field and unpleasant odors.