

Thursday, July 2, 2020

For Immediate Release

City of Rosemount Issues Annual Water Quality Report

Increased Levels of Manganese Detected

Rosemount, MN

The City of Rosemount is dedicated to providing safe and clean drinking water to the residents and businesses connected to the public water system. Frequent testing by the City and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) shows the municipal public water supply continues to meet all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The annual water quality report is available for public review on the city website at <https://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/255/Water-Quality-Report>.

In 2019, the department of health conducted additional testing as part of a study on *unregulated* contaminants. This testing showed that some city wells have manganese levels that exceed recommended health guidelines.

What is Manganese?

Manganese (Mn) is a naturally occurring element found in rocks and soil. It is often found in Minnesota ground and surface water. The human body needs some manganese to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful. You can learn more by visiting the MDH webpage at www.health.state.mn.us and searching for *Manganese in Drinking Water*. A two page information sheet can be found at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/contaminants/mangnsefctsh.pdf>

Manganese is unregulated and does not have an enforceable standard. However, the MDH recommended health guidelines include:

1. If you have an infant (under 1 year of age) who drinks water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 parts per billion (ppb) or 100 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$) or less.
2. If you have an infant (under 1 year of age) who NEVER drinks water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 ppb or 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ or less.
3. If everyone in a household is more than one year old, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 ppb or 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ or less.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a secondary maximum contaminant level which is a *non-mandatory water quality standard* for manganese of 50 ppb or 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$. This number is an aesthetic standard due to the possibility of stained fixtures and laundry.

The City's municipal water supply consists of nine city wells, and four water towers. The water mixes in the mains and towers and is then distributed to the consumer's tap. Because of this mixing, the actual level of manganese at each drinking water tap is unknown but would likely be below 100 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).

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City Actions

Below are the results from initial testing performed by the Minnesota Department of Health. This testing was performed in two rounds, and each set of results is shown below. The City continues to work with MDH to better understand manganese levels for all City wells and will post those results as they are received.

Well	Round 1	Round 2	Average
7	129 ppb	106 ppb	118 ppb
9	74 ppb	61 ppb	68 ppb
14	103 ppb	97 ppb	100 ppb
Rural 2	41 ppb	29 ppb	35 ppb

As an initial step, well 7 has been put in a ‘backup’ status meaning this well would only run as a last resort, for example if there was a major structure fire. The city has also contracted with an engineering firm to a review and provide recommendations to reduce the impact of the manganese. The city will voluntarily begin testing for manganese, in addition to the department of Health’s required monthly bacteria testing, to better understand manganese levels in the system. Finally, Rosemount is in the initial planning process for constructing a water treatment plant that would be located behind Fire Station 2 on Connemara Trail.

In addition to the city water system, many rural households in Rosemount rely on private wells for their water supply. Existing manganese data from private water wells in Rosemount indicate 39% of well water samples exceed the drinking water guidance of 100 micrograms per liter. Water softeners or reverse osmosis treatment systems can effectively reduce the manganese. Later this summer, to help residents and the City better understand manganese and other potential contaminants, Dakota County will be sending FREE water test kits to all Rosemount households that use private wells, and sharing the results with those residents. Contact Vanessa Demuth at Vanessa.demuth@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7010 with any questions or concerns.

If you have additional comments or questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 651-322-2022.

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For More Information Contact:

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