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At this point the THM problem is-not yet fully resolved.

The City of Rensselaer received the test results for the sampling of the THM's, and the results of the water indicates that we have again exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) based on a locational running average for total Trihalomethanes (THM). The levels are established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Sanitary Code. As the quarterly levels are going down the total average went up. The Maximum level of the substance as outlined in Part 5 of the New York Sanitary Code is **80 parts per billion**. Subpart 5-1.78 of the New York Sanitary Code requires that the City of Rensselaer provide public notification (Tier-2) to all customers-that are provided water from the City of Rensselaer. For the first quarter of 2022 the locational running annual average at one of the 2 required sampling locations was 82.3 PPB based upon the 2/5/2022 testing. At the 2nd required location the test result was 76.25 PPB. These results are significantly improved from the past results, achieved as the result of Troy's efforts

There is no action needed by homeowners. The homeowners **are** responsible for notification to their tenants giving them the information stated in this notice. The City of Rensselaer has been and will continue to be working with the City of Troy Water Department, the New York State Health Department, and the Rensselaer County Health Department (518-270-2632) to reduce Trihalomethanes while maintaining chlorine levels that will ensure that your drinking water is safe.

Trihalomethanes are a byproduct of the chlorine used to disinfect our drinking water supply. The City of Troy adds chlorine at their treatment facility. In addition, the City of Rensselaer and the Town of East Greenbush adds chlorine at the Pump Station at Cross St, Troy. It should be mentioned here that our monthly chlorine residual test results have continually met safe standards. It also should be mentioned that Rensselaer does not treat our water for THMs. As a matter of fact, with the high level of THMs in the water which we receive from Troy, it is virtually impossible to meet the existing THM requirements without specialized water treatment in Rensselaer; we are dependent upon the City of Troy to reduce the THMs in the water which they provide us.

We will continue to work to solve the THM problem and will update you regarding any actions that the City takes. If you have any questions, you may also contact the City of Rensselaer Water Dept. at 518-462-6466.

WHAT ARE THM's:

Trihalomethanes (THM's) are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, Bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. THM's are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g. decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of THM's in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains Trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of Trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health *effects*. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20-30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk of certain types of cancers. A few studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how frequently people drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane can cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetime. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over a long period of time.

Jim Brady
Commissioner of Public Works