Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Philipsburg
MT0000304
408 Hamilton Court
Philipsburg, MT 59858

We're very pleased to provide you with the annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water sources are the Fred Burr Lake and groundwater from Montana Silver Springs. Fred Burr Lake is the only surface water source in Montana that does not require filtration. Fred Burr Lake is a source of good quality drinking water that is low turbidity (suspended solids in the water). The groundwater from Montana Silver Springs is a cluster of springs that have been determined to be a true groundwater source and not under the direct influence of surface water. This determination was made by a study conducted by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We have completed a source water protection plan that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination to our drinking water supply. This plan can be found online at https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Rachel Parret at pburgct@gmail.com. We want our water users to be informed about their water system. You are also welcome to attend the Town Council meetings that are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall. The Town Hall is located at 104 South Sansome Street.

The Town of Philipsburg routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of any detects in our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2023.** For constituents that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back to the last time the constituent was monitored.

Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action Level	#Over AL	Source of Contamination
Lead	2022	2	ppb	15	0	Household plumbing
Copper	2022	0.86	ppm	1.3	0	Household plumbing

In the tables above and below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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 Detection Limit Goal or 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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)-picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)-nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	N	01/23/23	0.04	0.04-0.04	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	01/23/23	3	3-3	ppb	02	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	N	2020	0.0127	0.0127-0.0127	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries: Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	N	2020	0.361	0.361-0.361	ppm	0	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Chlorine	N	2023	1.66	1.21-1.66	ppm	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Water additive used to control microbes
			Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit				
Turbidity	N	2023	10.239	0.701-10.239	NTU			Soil run off.
Volatile Organic Contaminants								

TTHMs (total trihalomethanes)	N	2023	82	3-82	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Y	2023	131	41-131	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha (excluding radon and uranium)	N	01/29/19	1.1	0.701-1.1	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Microbial Contaminants								
Parameter	**Violation Y/N**	**Sample Date**	**Highest Number of Positive samples in a month**	**Unit Measurement**		**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Coliform	N	Monthly	0	Present/ Absent		0	1	Soil Runoff

Violations- Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Our system received a violation that showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MC. The violation began 07/01/2023 and ended 09/30/2023.

Nitrates - As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Arsenic- Some people who drink water containing Arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

Barium – Some people who drink water containing Barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Chlorine-Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL, could experience stomach discomfort

Copper - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink that water contains copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Fluoride- Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Haloacetic Acids- Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Alpha Emitters: Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Lead - Infants and children who drink water that contains lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)- Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

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. Town of Philipsburg 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 the 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.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

All 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 the 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 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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