

COUNTRY LAKE HOMES 2020 CCR

PWSID # MT03031

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and in an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water comes from two 200 foot deep wells. Well #1 – 1964 GWIC 85177 (Closest to Lake), Well #2 – 1989 (GWIC 86202 (Farthest From Lake) We have 92 service connections and added no new connections last year. We want you, our valued customers to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our quarterly board meetings held at 222 Mallard Loop.

In the summer of 2019 we replaced a failed well pump. In a continuing effort to improve our water system, we added a water tank level and temperature monitor. This monitoring system can contact our water board members if it detects a problem. Each year we located and exercised main line gate valves. Please notify STS – Tina Malkuch before you do any construction that may jeopardize your water service or the water system main lines.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Rem Kohrt at (406) 862-2184. Tina Malkuch, owner of Safewater Testing Simplified (STS), is our certified operator. Tina is a class 1abc state certified operator with 36 years of experience. She attends all required training sessions to meet continuing education requirements. The most recent course she attended was on line with Montana Rural Water Systems. Jeri Miller, also a certified operator, is a contract employee that has worked at STS for 18 years. Her role at STS not only includes office work, but to assist in testing as a back-up operator.

DID YOU KNOW? The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive elements. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) Radioactive contaminants, which 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Due to the purity of our water, we have applied for and been issued a monitoring waiver for ten inorganic contaminants. This waiver allows our system to sample only once every nine years for these contaminants. Past sampling has shown that these contaminants are either not present in our water or occur in such small amounts that they do not warrant a health hazard.

The following table lists the contaminants detected during recent testing: Some of the data in this table may be more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations.

Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE-MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	10-23-19	One Positive Sample	Positive Sample	0	0	Naturally occurring in the environment
Alpha Emitters	N	12-12-11	6.6	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	7-15-19	90th % is 0.14	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	8-20-12	0.12	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	7-15-19	90th % is 1	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite	N	2020	0.11	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Contaminants								
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	N A	Not Sampled	2020	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Violations
<p>Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)</p> <p>Violation Type: Failure to test for Monthly Microbiological test.</p> <p>Violation Began 6/1/2020 Violation End 6/30/2020</p>
<p>Failed to test drinking water for the Microbiological contaminate during period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of your water during this period.</p> <p>A sample was taken and submitted. A lab typo was made by omitting a hyphen causing the sample result not to be log in with the state in the 10 day required time limit.</p>

DEFINITIONS

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

What does this table tell us?

As you can see our system had no MCL violations. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Our testing did uncover the possible presence of coliform bacteria two years ago in 2019 and has been good since then. Although coliform bacteria are usually harmless, their presence in water is an indication that other harmful bacteria may be present. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow up tests are conducted to determine if harmful bacteria are present. In our case all repeat samples were coliform free.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring or manmade. Those contaminants 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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water and you wish to have your water tested, call Safewater Testing Simplified, Inc. – Tina Malkuch our water system operator at 406-253-5301. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

In January of 2006, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review online at <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/dst/#/app/swp>. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
<i>Inventory Region</i>						
Septic Systems	Pathogens, nitrate (NO ₃)	Discharge of pathogens; failure leading to discharge of untreated septage.	Moderate	Depth to intake, confining layers	Low	Properly maintain septic tanks and pump at scheduled intervals. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts. Promote advanced septic systems, public education.
<i>Other Potential Contaminant Sources, not rated significant</i>						
USTs (?)	VOCs	Leaching of VOCs to groundwater	Low	Depth to intake, confining layers	Very Low	Maintain water quality sampling according to schedule. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts.

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

For more information please contact:

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