

PTARMIGAN VILLAGE 2020

CCR (PWSID #MT00133)

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 wells: the first well is 141 feet deep (GWIC 251491 – Well #1) and the second well is 622 feet deep (GWI 271807 – Well #2). The reservoir holds 100,000 gallons. We have 55 service connections and added one new connections last year.

Your drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water, please contact the Ptarmigan office at (406) 249-7241 or Tina Malkuch 406-253-5301. Tina is the operator with 36 years of experience and is the owner of Safewater Testing simplified (STS). She attends all state required training sessions to meet continuing education credits as needed. The most recent courses attended were done online with Montana Rural Water systems. Jeri Miller, also a certified operator, is a contract employee that has worked at STS for 18 years. Her roll 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. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations.

Due to the purity of our water, we have applied for and been issued a monitoring waiver for six 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 Montana Department of Environmental Quality requires that we test for asbestos in our drinking water. As our distribution system contains no asbestos cement pipe, we have applied for and been granted a monitoring waiver for asbestos. This waiver allows our system to sample only once every nine years for this contaminant.

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.

Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE-MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters	N	12-9-13	4.1 +/- 1.2	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic EP504	N	5-19-19	2	ppb	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Copper	N	2020	90th % is 0.10	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	12-9-13	0.05	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	2020	90th % is 3	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite EP504 EP505	N	2020	0.29 0.11	ppm	10	10	Naturally occurring at this level
Radium 226	N	12-9-13	0.1 +/- 0.08	pCi/L	0	5	Natural deposits

Violations

1. Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)
 Violation Type: Failure to test for Monthly Microbiological test.
 Violation Began 6/1/2020 Violation End 6/30/2020
 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. **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.**

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "goal" is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter - a very small unit of measurement of radioactivity.

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.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring or man-made. 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

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.

Additional Lead Information

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, you may wish to have your water tested. Please call Safewater Testing Simplified, Inc. – Tina Malkuch our water System operator for assistance. (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. It is available 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 / Origin of Contaminant	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management recommendations
Septic Systems	Sewage, Nitrate, Nitrite, Pathogens	Nitrates and pathogens that are insufficiently treated in private septic systems	Low	Depth to intake; confining layer (till)	Very low	Properly maintain septic systems, and pump tanks at scheduled intervals. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality. Promote advanced septic systems, and public education.
UST's, LUST's	VOC's, SOC's, lead, petroleum hydrocarbons	Leaks and spills that have reached or may reach groundwater.	Low	Depth to intake; confining layer (till)	Very low	Maintain water quality sampling according to schedule.

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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