

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Three Forks

PWSID#MT0000343

Box 187

Three Forks, MT 59752-0187

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's 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 source is ground water from five wells in the Jefferson Formation. 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#accordion1-collapse2>

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;

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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact **Steven Johnston at 406-285-3408**. He is a certified operator with years of experience. If you want to learn more about our water, you can attend the Council meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm and the Water committee meets monthly. Please call for the date and time of the Water committee.

The City of Three Forks 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 the last five years.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of that the drinking water has or has not met health standards. We will not conduct monitoring for asbestos because we have been granted a waiver by DEQ. This waiver is based on the analytical result. This waiver is in effect from 2020 through 2028.

Also, we will not conduct monitoring for barium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury, and selenium at the Treatment Plants for Well 5 and Well 6 because we have been granted a reduced monitoring waiver by DEQ. This waiver is based on the analytical results for these chemicals at these sites. This waiver is in effect from 2020 through 2028.

We have monitored for lead and copper, and all our samples have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Three Forks WTP 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 lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on 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>.

Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action level	Source of Contamination
Lead	2021	2	ppb	15	Household plumbing
Copper	2021	0.169	ppm	1.3	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 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.

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

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) 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 - (mandatory language) 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.

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

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. 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.

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).

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 Nitrogen)	N	2022	0.41	ND - 0.41	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2022	2.5	0.4 - 2.5	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	2022	2	ND-2	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	2023	9	5 - 10	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony	N	2022	2	ND-2	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronic; solder
Barium	N	2022	0.07	ND - 0.07	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes
Disinfection By-products								
Chlorine	N	2023	0.7	0.6 - 0.7	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	2023	0.78	na	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	2023	<0.5	na	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	2020	16	13 - 16	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	N	2018	1.3	ND - 1.3	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2023	2.1	2.1 - 2.1	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

Our system had no violations.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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.

This annual Drinking Water Report will NOT BE MAILED out to individual water customers. A copy of this report can be viewed/downloaded from www.threeforksmontana.us/public-works or picked up at the City Hall by calling the City Clerk at 285-3431.