

2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Absarokee Water and Sewer District

PWSID#MT0000003

Box 365

Absarokee, MT 59001

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 to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water from four wells. 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 now safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact **Jason Wallace** at **406-328-4748**. You may also attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the second Tuesday of every month at the district's office at 4:00 pm**.

Absarokee Water & Sewer District 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, 2022**. 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.

Also, we will not conduct monitoring for all our wells for barium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury, and selenium because we have been granted a reduced monitoring waiver by DEQ. This waiver is based on the analytical results for these chemicals. These waivers are 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. Absarokee 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>.

Sample Date	Parameter	Violation	90 th % value	Action level	Source of Contamination
2020	Copper	N	0.144	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of plumbing
2020	Lead	N	1	15 ppb	Corrosion of 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

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								
Barium	N	2022	0.1	ND - 0.1	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2022	0.3	0.2 - 0.3	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	N	2022	1.33	0.48 - 1.33	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products								
Chlorine	N	2022	0.84	0.24 - 0.84	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	2022	3.5	na	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	N	2022	0.72	na	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Our system had one violation. We had a violation of ARM 17.38.215 for failure to monitor total coliform bacteria for July of 2022. A sample was taken in July but due to a laboratory error the information was not transmitted to the State of Montana in time. The DEQ still awarded the violation to the Water District as per the rule referenced above. Subsequent months were completed and transmitted on time so the Water District is back in compliance.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all other 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.

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 picked up at the district office by calling 406-328-4748.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Absarokee Water And Sewer District

Our water system violated drinking water standards. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During July 2022 we did not monitor for total coliform bacteria and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time, however If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for total coliform bacteria and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples will be taken
Total Coliform Bacteria ¹	2	2	July 2022	AUGUST + SEP.

¹ Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

What is being done?

Samples were taken and delivered to Energy Labs at the proper time. Energy Labs did not transmit the results to the State in time. All subsequent samples have been on time and we are back in compliance.
[Describe corrective action.]

For more information, please contact Camille Weier at (406) 328-4748 [phone number] or Po Box 365 Absarokee, MT 59001.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Absarokee Water And Sewer District

State Water System ID#: MT0000003

Date and Method Distributed: 2022 CCR 5/26/2023

Water System Class: C
County: Stillwater

Monitoring Period: July 2022
Violation Date: September 16, 2022