Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Absarokee Water and Sewer District MT0000003

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report please contact ***Absarokee Water District*** at ***(406)328-4748.***
Public Participation Opportunities: ***Monthly Public Board Meeting every second Tuesday at 4pm in the Water Office.***

Sources of Drinking Water

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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 number 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.

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 healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Information for Absarokee Water and Sewer District

which is classified as a *Ground Water* system

The source water assessment report for your water system provides additional information on your source water's susceptibility to contamination. To access this report please go to:
https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater
On the webpage look under "4. Make Results of the Delineation and Assessment Available to the Public" and then click on the grey box called "Review Source Water Assessment Reports".

Absarokee Water and Sewer District utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 8 CIRCLE T GWIC 171385	Well
WELL 5 THATCHER WELL GWIC 101248	Well
WELL 3 TANK WELL GWIC 101381	Well
WELL 9 CIRCLE T GWIC 171386	Well

Water Quality Test Results Definitions

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an annual average of monthly samples.
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.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of 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 or MCLG: 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 or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level 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.
N/A: Not applicable.
ND: Not detectable at testing limit.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Measure of the radioactivity in water.
ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): SMCLs are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.
Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09-05-2023	1.3	1.3	0.277	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09-05-2023	0	15	13	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant Group: Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	0.48	.32 - .6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	0	.37 - .37	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	1	.75 - .75	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2022	0.10	ND - .1	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2022	0.30	.2 - .3	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	1	.65 - 1.16	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Uranium	2022	1.80	1.4 - 1.8	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations

Violation for Montana State Chlorine Rule

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	02/01/2024 to 02/29/2024	04-03-2024	The daily chlorine monitoring was done so the water was safe during this timeframe however the results got hung up in the email server and did not get transmitted to the State in time.

The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level.

Complete and submit the Certification Form to DEQ by September 30. It is recommended that you email the CCR and Certification Form to DEQ at the same time to ensure that all actions are completed on time. A fillable certification form can be downloaded *here.*

DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

April 8, 2024

ABSAROKEE WATER AND SEWER DIST
JASON WALLACE
PO BOX 365
ABSAROKEE MT 59001

RE: Failure to Report Daily Entry Point Chlorine Residuals
ABSAROKEE WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, PWSID MT0000003.

Dear Jason Wallace,

This letter is to inform you that DEQ has determined that Absarokee Water And Sewer District is in violation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.38.234. Absarokee Water And Sewer Dist is required to monitor and record its minimum entry point chlorine residuals daily and forward those results to DEQ by the 10th day of the following month. These records are important to assure that the water being served is continually treated to make sure it is safe. DEQ records indicate that the chlorine residual data was not received, as required, for the monitoring period of February 2024.

To return your system to compliance, I recommend you do the following:

- Submit the missing data, if available, or begin monitoring and report to DEQ the chlorine entry point residuals in your next monthly report.

and

- Provide Tier 3 public notification in accordance with ARM 17.38.239. Instructions and an example public notice with the required language are provided. Within ten days of issuing public notice, you must submit to DEQ a representative copy of each type of notice distributed to the public. Please be sure to specify the delivery date and method used for each notice.

Please be aware that failure to return to compliance may subject the system to enforcement action.

If you disagree with the information stated above or have other relevant information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dillon Johnson
Montana Chlorination Rule Manager
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Public Water Supply Bureau
(406) 444 - 4633 | dillon.johnson@mt.gov

Cc: PWS File
STILLWATER County Sanitarian
BILLINGS OFFICE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC NOTICE

Template on Next Page

Disinfection monitoring and reporting violations requires Tier 3 public notification. You must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation. Multiple monitoring violations can be serious.

Community systems must use one of the following:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill
- Incorporate into your annual CCR (see below)

Non-community systems must use one of the following:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least seven days. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available. In addition, both community and non-community systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met.

Include in your notice the standard language for monitoring and testing procedure violations in italics. If you modify the notice, you may not alter this mandatory language.

Corrective Actions

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. You can use the following language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

"We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards."

"We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The level of [chlorine] was within the required range. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]"

"We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above."

After Issuing the Notice, make sure to send DEQ a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Not Reported for the

ABSAROKEE WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did not complete all monitoring or reporting for chlorine residuals during the month listed below 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.

What happened?
The table below lists the disinfectant we did not properly test for during the last year, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Disinfectant	Required sampling frequency	Facility Name / Sample Point	Months of inadequate monitoring & reporting	When samples will be taken
CHLORINE	ONE DAILY SAMPLE	TP008	February 2024	Samples were taken in Feb 24 on time.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

What is being done?
Samples were taken properly and on-time. The email reporting these samples to the DEQ was hung up in the outgoing email folder.

For more information, please contact: JASON WALLACE, PO BOX 365, ABSAROKEE, MT 59001
Phone: (406) 328-4748

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, MT0000003, C

Date and Method Distributed: 2024 CCR.

Signature and Date sent to DEQ: Jason D. Wallace 4/21/2025