Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

River Rock County Water & Sewer District MT0004082

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 Christine Clarkson at 406-581-8604.

Public Participation Opportunities: District Board Meeting are held on the third Thursday each month at 7:00 PM at the River Rock Community Center

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 **River Rock County Water & 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 scroll down and look under the subtitle “Montana Source Water Protection Viewer” and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called “Source Water Reports” at the top.

River Rock County Water And Sewer Dist utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 2 GWIC 188865	Well
WELL 3 GWIC 283159	Well
WELL 1 1979 GWIC 90879	Well

Water Quality Test Results Definitions

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	09-30-2021	1.3	1.3	0.178	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09-30-2021	0	15	3.74	0	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	2024	0.90	.7 - 1.23	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
The chlorine highest level detected reflects the highest running annual average calculated each month during the CCR year. The range is the min/max of the monthly average during the CCR year.								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022	4	3.7 - 3.7	No goal for the total	60	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
Arsenic	2022	0.5460	.546 - .546	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Barium	2022	0.0866	.0866 - .0866	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	2022	0.1530	.153 - .153	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2022	0.1480	.148 - .148	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	2	1.28 - 2.04	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2022	0.2280	.228 - .228	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Violations

Violation for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

An acceptable DBP sample report has not been submitted to the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Lead and Copper Rule

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	01/01/2022 to 12/31/2024	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

The water system failed to sample for lead and copper during the monitoring period so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Manganese

Manganese in drinking water can cause discoloration, unpleasant taste, and potential health effects if consumed at elevated levels. Regular monitoring ensures safe water quality and compliance with health advisories.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for manganese during the required monitoring period. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the manganese levels in our drinking water during this time.

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

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	05/01/2024 to 05/31/2024	07-11-2024	We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this 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.			
STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	07/01/2024 to 07/31/2024	09-10-2024	We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this 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.			
Violation for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)			
Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
An acceptable DBP sample report has not been submitted to the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.			

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