Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Whitehall

PWSID# MT0000359
207 E Legion
Whitehall, MT 59759

We're very pleased to provide you with the 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 derived from two wells with a 500,000 gallon storage tank to serve approximately 1100 customers.

The Town of Whitehall currently has a well head protection plan in place and available to the public at the Town Hall, 2 North Whitehall Street, Whitehall. We are in the process of updating the Source Water Protection Plan. When complete it will be available at City Hall.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Kory Klapan at 406-287-3972. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

The Town of Whitehall 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 to the last time the constituent was monitored.

Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action Level	# Sites Over AL	Source of Contamination
Lead	2023	2	ppb	15	0	Household plumbing
Copper	2023	0.36	ppm	1.3	0	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 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.

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.

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - 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 - 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.

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.

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 N	N	08/08/23	1.96	1.40-1.96	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	07/27/21	9	3-9	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	07/27/21	0.9	0.5-0.9	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water addivitive which promotes stron teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury	N	07/27/21	0.2	0.2-0.2	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	N	2023	6	0-29	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	Y	2023	41	30.2-42.8	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitter (mrem/yr)	N	1/08/2019	14	14-14	Mrem/yr	0	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Microbial Contaminants								
Parameter	**Violation Y/N**	**Sample Date**	**Highest Number of Positive samples in a month**	**Unit Measurement**		**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Coliform	N	Monthly	0	Present/ Absent		0	1	Soil Runoff

Violations- Our system received violations for Uranium. Water samples shows that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for three quarters in 2023.
Our system received a violation for Uranium testing beginning 07/01/2023. Because we of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. The violation ended 09/30/2024.
Our system received a violation for Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium. We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant with the violation indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. The violation began 07/01/2023 and ended 09/30/2023.

We are currently working with the MT DEQ regarding our Uranium issues.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne disease caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children. Our system received violation for failure to monitor during the period 08/01/2023-08/31/2023.
Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the periods indicated. However, future testing in September of 2023 showed no issues.

Nitrate- In drinking water a nitrate level above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Arsenic - While your drinking water meets EPA's standard 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.

Fluoride- Some people who drink water containing Fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Mercury-Some people who drink water containing inorganic Mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.

Uranium- Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years have increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

Alpha Emitters - Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Beta/photon emitters-Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Copper - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink that water contains copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead - Infants and children who drink water that contains lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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. The Town of Whitehall 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 the 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.

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

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).

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 report was revised by Energy Laboratories, Inc – Helena, Montana-March 2024