



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



**City of Three Forks MT0000343**

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 **Steven E Johnston at 406-285-3408.**

Public Participation Opportunities: If you want to learn more about our water, the water committee meets as needed, typically every other month. Please call for date and time. **You can also attend the Council meeting held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at City Hall.**

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 City of Three Forks** 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".  
City of Three Forks utilizes the listed water sources below:

| Water Source Name                | Water Source Type |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| WELL 5 1964 4TH AVE E GWIC 12595 | Well              |
| WELL 9 GWIC 219044               | Well              |
| WELL 6A GWIC# 320773             | Well              |
| WELL 6 1986 HEADWATER LOT 5      | Well              |
| WELL 10A GWIC 277215             | Well              |
| WELL 2 CONNORS WELL GWIC 12682   | 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          | 2024         | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.126           | 0               | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 2024         | 0    | 15                | 2               | 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            | 0.70                   | .25 - 1.04      | MRDLG = 4             | MRDL = 4 | ppm   | N         | Water additive used to control microbes.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)  | 2023            | 1                      | .78 - .78       | 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  | 2024            | 9                      | 7 - 12.4        | 0                     | 10       | ppb   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                    |
| 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. |                 |                        |                 |                       |          |       |           |  |
| Barium   | 2022            | 0.07                   | ND - .07        | 2                     | 2        | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Fluoride   | 2022            | 2.50                   | .4 - 2.5        | 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            | 0.43                   | ND - .43        | 10                    | 10       | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks,  |

|                |      |   |        |    |    |     |   |   |
|----------------|------|---|--------|----|----|-----|---|---|
|                |      |   |        |    |    |     |   | sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Selenium       | 2022 | 2 | ND - 2 | 50 | 50 | ppb | N | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.   |
| Total Antimony | 2022 | 2 | ND - 2 | 6  | 6  | ppb | N | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition. |

#### Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants

| Regulated Contaminants             | Collection Year | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Combined Radium 226/228            | 2019            | 1.70                   | 1.7 - 1.7       | 0    | 5   | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & Uranium | 2020            | 13                     | 13 - 13         | 0    | 15  | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Uranium                            | 2024            | 3.10                   | 3.1 - 3.1       | 0    | 30  | ppb   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |

#### Secondary Contaminants

| Secondary Contaminant | Collection Year | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | SMCL | Units | Likely Source of Contamination and or Reason for Monitoring |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|---|
| MANGANESE             | 2024            | 10                     | 10 - 10         | 50   | ppb   | Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses  |

Water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ppb, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ppb and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children younger than one year old should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of 10 days throughout the year.

#### Violations

##### 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 | 01-31-2025      | 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. |

The violation was returned to compliance once the analytical result was received by the State of Montana DEQ.

##### 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<br>MONITORING DAILY   | 09/01/2024 to<br>09/30/2024 | 11-04-2024      | 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 month 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. |                             |                 |  |