HUNGRY HORSE WATER DISTRICT

Montana Public Water Supply ID number 00253

2024 Water Quality Report

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and in an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water comes from three groundwater wells: Well #1 is 200 feet deep, Well #2 is 155 feet deep, and Well #3 is 198 feet deep. We have 357 service connections and added two new connections last year. In order to maintain its purity, we add a small amount of chlorine to the water in our distribution system when we flush our hydrants once per year.

We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Irene Shafer Hall at 528 Colorado Boulevard in Hungry Horse.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ben Shafer at (406) 871-7355. Ben is our certified operator with eight years of experience. He attends periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements.

DID YOU KNOW? The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive elements. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4) Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
5) 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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. We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We take all of our water samples to Montana Environmental Laboratory in Kalispell (406-755-2131). They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water.

Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations. The following tests were performed to identify possible contaminants in our system during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024:

- 12 coliform bacteria tests – all were coliform free.
- 1 nitrate plus nitrite test on each of our wells – results were within EPA guidelines.
- One manganese test on each of our wells – none was detected.

Due to the purity of our water, we have applied for and been issued a monitoring waiver for 10 inorganic contaminants: antimony, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury, nickel, selenium, and thallium. This waiver allows our system to sample only once every nine years for these contaminants. Past sampling has shown that these contaminants are either not present in our water or occur in such small amounts that they do not warrant a health hazard and it has been determined that the likelihood of contamination is low. This waiver covers the period from 2020 to 2028.

The following table lists the contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of the data in this table may be more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year.

Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE-MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Barium Well #1 Well #2 Well #3	N	12-7-20	0.57 0.54 0.42	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	8-4-22	90th % is 0.06	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits: Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride Well #1 Well #2 Well #3	N	12-7-20	0.05 0.05 0.03	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth: Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	8-4-22	90th % is 2	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing: Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite Well #1 Well #2 Well #3	N	3-4-24	0.36 0.38 0.12	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" 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.

PPM - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

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

What does this table tell us?

As you can see our system had no MCL violations. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although 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 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. During 2024 we did not test for Manganese and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. We were notified of this and received a failure to monitor violation letter from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. We immediately sampled for manganese. None was detected.

We failed to provide you, our drinking water customers, an annual report (like this one) that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water. We are required to write this "Consumer Confidence Report" by June 30th of the following calendar year. Due to an administrative oversight, we did not complete our 2023 CCR and submit a copy to MTDEQ on time. We were in violation of state and federal law. We received a failure to write a CCR violation from MTDEQ. In order to comply with our requirements we completed our report in March of 2025.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring or manmade. Those contaminants 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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by a certified laboratory like the one we send our samples to (Montana Environmental Laboratory, 406-755-2131). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Our drinking water comes from three groundwater wells: Well #1 is 200 feet deep, Well #2 is 155 feet deep, and Well #3 is 198 feet deep. In January of 2004, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review online at https://deq.mt.gov/water/programs/dw-sourcewater. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminants	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
Inventory Region						
Septic Density (localized higher densities)	Nitrate, pathogens, other contaminants	Leakage of poorly installed or maintained systems.	High	None known	Very high	Local promotion of advanced septic systems, public education, possible development of community septic system.
Large Capacity Septic Systems	Nitrate, pathogens, other contaminants	Leakage of poorly installed or maintained systems.	High	None known	Very High	Local promotion of advanced septic systems, public education, possible development of community septic system.
U. S. Hwy 2 and other roadways	VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, SOCs, other	Wrecks and large spills that can reach streams or rivers	High	None known	Very High	Emergency planning, training of local emergency response personnel
Old Hungry Horse Dam town site dump (CECRA site)	VOCs, SOCs, metals, other contaminants	Accidental release or improper disposal of hazardous materials	High	Ongoing soil & groundwater monitoring	High	Evaluation of soil and groundwater contaminant migration from this site
RV septic dumpsite	Nitrate, pathogens, other contaminants	Leakage of poorly installed or maintained system	High	None known	Very High	Local promotion of advanced septic systems, public education, possible development of community septic system
UST and/or LUST Sites	VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons	Leaks and spills that can reach groundwater	High	Monitoring, spill prevention, ongoing remediation at spill sites, BMPs	Moderate	Emergency planning, training of local emergency response personnel, groundwater monitoring, spill prevention, BMPs
Recharge Region						
Railroad Line running through the recharge region	VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, SOCs, other	Wrecks and large spills & right of way maintenance (spraying)	Low	Dilution due to distance and river flow volume	Low	Emergency planning, training of local emergency response personnel, allocation of emergency response resources