

Quality on Tap Report for the Town of West Yellowstone

PWSID #MT0003136

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We're pleased to present to you the 2011 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we provide to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually provide safe drinking water and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is groundwater from Whiskey Springs. It is one of the most pristine groundwater sources in the country. The spring is located five miles southwest of West Yellowstone. The water source is currently producing over 3000 gallons per minute and is gravity fed to a one million gallon storage tank. Whiskey Springs is without question "Quality on Tap."

Our water source does contain fluoride and is monitored monthly and published annually in the local newspaper. The recommended level for drinking water is not to exceed 2 mg/l. Our water contains 2.06-2.81 mg./l and the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA is 4 mg/l.

We have a source water protection plan that is available from our office providing more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan was completed in order to protect our pristine water supply from future contamination. It is available for viewing and input during normal office hours. We're pleased to report our drinking water is safe and it meets federal and state requirements.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Bill Fogarty at (406) 646-7609. 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 town council meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesday each month at the Povah Community Center at 7pm.

The Town of West Yellowstone routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2010.

Some of the data in the tables is more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. Our sampling frequency complies with the EPA and State drinking water regulations.

In this table 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:

Non-detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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.

Parts per billion (PPB) or micrograms per liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action level- The concentration of a contaminant that if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s 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. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Test Results							
Contaminant	Violation Y/ N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Unit Measurement	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform	N Y*	Jan - Dec 2010 Aug,2010	ND	<100 pts / ml	Parts / Million	1.00	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride	N	8/2/2010	2.81	2.06 2.81	Parts / Million	4.00	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories
Nitrates	N	6/22/2010	0.115	<0.05 0.346	Parts / Million	10.00	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits

We are required to test lead and copper levels (in 10 different locations) every three years, and also test for inorganic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. The Dept. of Environmental Quality requires these tests. We are also pleased to state that our water system is well within the guidelines and parameters of the DEQ’s requirements. The results of these tests are available for public viewing during office hours at the Public Services building. These tests were completed in 2010.

***NOTICE OF MONITORING VIOLATION**

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though it was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis with a prescribed number of tests each month. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During August 2010 we only completed 5 of the required 10 samplings for total coliform bacteria and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. All other required samples were completed. There is nothing you need to do at this time. All required tests were completed during the next month. No violations of the total coliform rule were noted in the months prior to or after this violation.

Inorganic Contaminants

Beryllium - Some people who drink water containing beryllium well in excess of the MCL could, over many years, develop intestinal lesions.

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 water that 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.

Fluoride – Some people who drink water that contains fluoride in excess of the MCL, over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Lead – Infants and children who drink water that contain 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.

Nitrate – Infants below the age of six months who drink water that contains nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and 'blue baby syndrome'.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

As you can see by the table, our system has had only a minor violation. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all State and Federal requirements. We have learned from our testing and monitoring that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels

All drinking water is subject to potential contamination by elements and/or components that are naturally occurring or are man made those components can be microbial, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 contaminants; a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the maximum contaminant level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes have to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

We at the Town of West Yellowstone work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life and our children's future

This annual consumer confidence report will not be mailed out to individual water customers. However, if you would like a copy of this report, stop by the Public Works office during normal business hours or go to www.townofwestyellowstone.com.