

Quality on Tap Report

2012

Town of West Yellowstone ♦ PWSID #MT0003136
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Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of 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.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

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".

Source water assessment and its availability

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 are pleased to report our drinking water is safe and it meets federal and state requirements.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 2.21-2.66 mg/L and the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA is 4 mg/L.

How can I get involved?

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 David Arnato 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 7 p.m.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

The Town of West Yellowstone received a monitoring violation for failure to sample from the source water after a sample collected on July 10, 2012 tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria. Additional samples were collected on July 16, 2012 to ensure the safety of the drinking water. One of those samples was from the Whiskey Springs Source, but no sample was collected from the Railroad Well Source. On May 22, 2013 samples were collected from both the Whiskey Springs and Railroad Well sources. Both samples were Absent for Total Coliform bacteria, and compliance was achieved.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Town of West Yellowstone 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 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2012. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL,	Your	Range		Sample	Violation	Typical Source
	or	TT, or		Low	High			
	MRDLG	MRDL	Water					
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.098	0.083	0.098	2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	2.66	2.21	2.66	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	NA		2012	No	Naturally present in the environment

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

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