

Quality on Tap Report 2019

Town of West Yellowstone – PWSID MT#0003136 – P.O. Box 1570 – West Yellowstone, MT 59758
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Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

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. 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 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 quarterly or more often, as required by our monitoring schedule. Our water contains 2.3 – 3.9 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 Town Offices at (406) 646-7795. 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 Town Hall at 7 p.m.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

The Town of West Yellowstone had a routine violation by failing to test drinking water in a follow-up or routine sample for Lead and Copper beginning October 2016 and ending 2019. The health effects for failure to monitor Lead and Copper are unknown.

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>.

Additional Information for 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.

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, 2019. 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 or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1	0	2	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.00111	.00101	.00101	2018	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	3.6	2.3	3.9	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (ppm)	2	2	.0176	.0176	.0176	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries, factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.12	0.1	0.12	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (TCR) (positive samples/month)	0	1	4	NA	NA	2018	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	1.8	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	2.8	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.28	2018	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.26	2018	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Total Coliform (TCR)

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

On April 10, 2019, 1 of 12 routine monthly Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but Absent for E. Coli.

On April 15, 2019 1 of 3 repeat Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but absent for E. coli; and 1 Total Coliform source sample tested absent for Total Coliform and E. Coli.

On June 11, 2019 5 of 12 routine monthly Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but Absent for E. Coli.

On June 17, 2019 14 of 14 repeat Total Coliform samples tested absent for Total Coliform and E. Coli and 1 Total Coliform source sample tested absent for Total Coliform and E. Coli.

On June 24, 2019 1 of 1 repeat Total Coliform samples tested absent for Total Coliform and E. Coli. No additional actions were taken since all the repeat samples tested absent.

On August 20, 2019 3 of 3 routine monthly Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but absent for E. Coli.

On August 28, 2019 3 of 11 repeat Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but absent for E. coli.

On September 23, 2019 1 of 10 routine monthly Total Coliform samples tested present for Total Coliform, but absent for E. Coli, and 2 Total Coliform source samples tested absent for Total Coliform and E. coli.

On September 26, 2019 3 repeat Total Coliform samples tested absent for Total Coliform and absent for E. coli, and 1 Total Coliform source sample tested absent for Total Coliform and E. Coli.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
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.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances 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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