Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of White Sulphur Springs MT0000360

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

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 **Clyde "Rocky" Vinton** at **406-547-3788.**
Public Participation Opportunities: **If you would like to learn more about our water, please call to inquire about the monthly meeting date and time.**

Sources of Drinking Water

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

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number 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.

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 White Sulphur Springs**

which is classified as a *Surface 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 scroll down and look under the subtitle “Montana Source Water Protection Viewer” and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called “Source Water Reports” at the top.

City of White Sulphur Springs utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 2 1998 8TH AVE GWIC 172711	Well
INTAKE WILLOW CREEK	Source Water Intake
WELL 1 1986 8TH AVE GWIC 260672	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.

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	2025	0.20	0.1 - 0.23	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
The chlorine highest level detected reflects the highest running annual average calculated each month during the CCR year. The range is the min/max of the monthly average during the CCR year.								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	3	2.6 - 2.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	11	11 - 11	No goal for the total	80	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	2023	5	5 - 5	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. EPAs standard balances the current understanding of arsenics 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	0.08	.08 - .08	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2022	0.30	0.3 - 0.3	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	1	1.15 - 1.15	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Turbidity					
	Date	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement (NTU)	2025	NA	NA	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2025	NA	NA	N	Soil runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.					
The Surface Water Plant Was Not Operational in 2025.					

Violations

Violation for Antimony

Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Barium

Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

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Violation for Beryllium

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

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MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Cadmium

Some people who drink water containing cadmium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.

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MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Chromium

Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

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MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

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Violation for Combined Radium 226/228

Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation

MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2017 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.			
Violation for Fluoride			
Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of childrens teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.			
Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
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Violation for Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium			
Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2017 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
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Violation for Mercury			
Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.			
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MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.			
Violation for Selenium			
Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.			
Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.			
Violation for Thallium			
Some people who drink water containing thallium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair loss, changes in their blood, or problems with their kidneys, intestines, or liver.			
Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2023 to 12/31/2025	OPEN	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.