

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Harlowton
PWSID#MT0000240

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is purchased ground water from 2 wells from CMRWA Musselshell Judith Rural Water System. In September of 2023, we changed from 3 ground water wells in town to purchasing water from CMRWA Musselshell.

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

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.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact **Bob Schuchard**. He is a certified operator with years of experience. If you want to learn more about our water, you may call him at **406-632-4188**, or attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm**.

The City of Harlowton and CMRWA Musselshell Judith Rural Water routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of any detects in our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2023**. For constituents that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back the last five years. Please review the Water Quality Report for CMRWA Musselshell Judith Rural Water for a complete review of all the monitoring performed on the water system.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of that the drinking water has or has not met health standards. We will not conduct monitoring for asbestos because we have been granted a waiver by DEQ. This waiver is in effect from 2020 through 2028.

We have monitored for lead and copper, and all our samples have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Harlowton and CMRWA Musselshell Judith Rural Water 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>.

Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action level	Source of Contamination
Lead	2023	5	ppb	15	Household plumbing
Copper	2023	0.135	ppm	1.3	Household plumbing

In the tables above and below 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:

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.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) 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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 (800-426-4791).

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate + Nitrite As N	N	2022	0.01	0.01	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	2022	0.08	ND -	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2022	1.6	0.5 -	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	2020	4	4-4	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2020	0.6	0-0.6	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products Contaminants								
Chlorine	N	2023	1.4	1.0 -	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N	2023	19	3.6-19	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	N	2023	4.1	ND -	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Our system had one reporting violation. We failed to complete and submit our 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to the state before the deadline of July 1, 2023.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. 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 ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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<https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw#accordion1-collapse2>

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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.

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Inorganic Contaminants								
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Barium	N	2022	0.08	ND - 0.08	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2022	1.6	0.5 - 1.6	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	N	08/05/19	14000	14000 - 14000	200	200	ppb	Discharge from plastic, fertilizer, and steel/metal factories
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	2020	4	4-4	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2020	0.6	0-0.6	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products Contaminants								
Chlorine	N	2022	1.6	1.4 - 1.6	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N	2022	20	20-20	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	N	2022	6.7	6.7 - 6.7	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Our system had no violations.

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<https://deq.mt.gov/Water/Protection/SourceWaterProtectionPlan.asp>

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Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action level	Source of Contamination
Lead	2020	3	ppb	15	Household plumbing
Copper	2020	0.492	ppm	1.3	Household plumbing

In the tables above and below 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:

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Cyanide	N	08/05/19	14000	14000 - 14000	200	200	ppb	Discharge from plastic, fertilizer and steel/metal factories
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	2020	4	4-4	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2020	0.6	0-0.6	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N	2021	26	26-26	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	N	2021	8.4	8.4 - 8.4	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Our system had no violations.

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Harlowton has been issued a waiver for certain inorganic contaminants. This waiver allows our water system to sample only once every 9 years for these regulated contaminants: antimony, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury, nickel, selenium and thallium. Past sampling for these contaminants has shown that they are not present in our water supply, or occur in such small amounts that they are not considered a health hazard. This waiver is in effect from 2011 through 2020. We have also renewed our waiver for asbestos.

We have monitored for lead and copper, and all of our samples have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Harlowton 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>.

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Lead	2017	4	ppb	15	Household plumbing
Copper	2017	0.25	ppm	1.3	Household plumbing

In the tables above and below 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:

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 (ug/L)-one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) 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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 (800-426-4791).

8TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate + Nitrite As N	N	2019	0.02	0-0.02	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	2018	5.3	0-5.3	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2018	0.4	0-0.4	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N	2019	20	21-21	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	N	2019	10	7.6-7.6	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Our system had no violations.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. 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 ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for **Harlowton City Of**

Our water system violated drinking water standards. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During June 2024 we did not monitor for total coliform bacteria and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time, however If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for total coliform bacteria and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples will be taken
Total Coliform Bacteria ¹	2		June 2024	

¹ Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

What is being done?

Samples were taken in July to return to compliance
we are meeting drinking water standards
 [Describe corrective action.]

For more information, please contact Debbie Johnson at 406 632 5523 [phone number] or Po Box 292 Harlotwon, MT 59036.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Harlowton City Of

State Water System ID#: MT0000240

Date and Method Distributed: _____.

Water System Class: C
County: Wheatland

Monitoring Period: June 2024
Violation Date: July 17, 2024