



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Town of Fromberg MT0000222

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021

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 Town Clerk **Harlie Riddle** at **406-668-7383**

Public Participation Opportunities: **The public is welcome to attend monthly Town Council meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall located at 118 West River Street.**

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 EPA's 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>.

Lead Service Line Inventory

The revised Lead and Copper Rule requires that all Community Water Systems complete and submit a Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory by October 16th, 2024. As a result, Fromberg will be required to conduct an inventory of the service lines connecting water mains with its buildings. The service lines, their associated materials and locations will be entered into an inventory spreadsheet and submitted to the MT Department of Environmental Quality. All water main service connections, including those to abandoned buildings, empty lots, commercial and residential structures and lines for non-potable (fire suppression or other) use must be inventoried.

Fromberg would like its water customers to know that the inventory is a Federal and State requirement and that any assistance that customers can give the Town during this process would be greatly appreciated.

Information regarding the LSL inventory can be found the at the DEQ drinking water website: <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw>.

This document, the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), will serve as the platform for all Lead-related information and notifications.

New Waiver Program Testing Cycle.

The Community of Fromberg is entering into a new nine-year cycle of testing. The program allows our water system to sample once every 9 years for specific regulated contaminants including: barium, cadmium, chromium, mercury, selenium, and fluoride. 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 2020 through 2028.

Source Water Information for Town of Fromberg
which is classified as a *Ground 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 look under "4. Make Results of the Delineation and Assessment Available to the Public" and then click on the grey box called "Review Source Water Assessment Reports".

Water is supplied to the City of Fromberg by two shallow wells. The highly productive wells pull from an aquifer that flows through fractured shale and clay following the valley floor and is recharged by water flow following the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River. Because the aquifer is shallow and largely unconfined it has a high sensitivity to potential sources of contamination located at the land surface (DEQ, 2004). The potential for the aquifer to become contaminated means that our community must be committed to protecting the areas of recharge. We must also ensure that the areas directly adjacent to our spring and wells are protected from the development of potential sources of contamination. It should be noted the due to our shallow well depth, we are required by MT DEQ to maintain a chlorine residual of 0.50 mg/L.

Information for the town's wells can be found at <http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu/>.

Town of Fromberg utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 2 GWIC 295398	Well
WELL 1 GWIC 155741	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.

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.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	06-20-2019	1.3	1.3	0.342	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	06-20-2019	0	15	5	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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	2021	1.1	.56 to 1.01	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	Y	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2021	3	2.8 - 2.8	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	8	8.2 - 8.2	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
Fluoride	2017	1	1 - 1	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2020	1.03	1.03 - 1.03	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2017	4	4 - 4	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & Uranium	2017	5.3	5.3 - 5.3	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2017	15	15 - 15	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations

Violation for Consumer Confidence Rule

The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
CCR REPORT	07/01/2021 to OPEN	OPEN	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

The CCR has not been distributed to consumers or sent to the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Montana State Chlorine Rule

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MINIMUM DISINFECTANT LEVEL - STATE	08/01/2021 to 08/31/2021	11-10-2021	Our chlorine residual concentration dropped below the required minimum residual for a period of time past allowable resulting in a violation.

The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	04/01/2021 to 04/30/2021	07-06-2021	We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this time.

The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level.

Violation for Nitrate and Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate and nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021	03-07-2022	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.

We have taken the necessary samples, albeit late, to return to compliance.