



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Town of Fromberg MT0000222

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 Mike Ventling at 406-425-2400.

Public Participation Opportunities: We meet at 6:30pm on the second Thursday of the month, call Mike for details.

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>.

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 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.

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.

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.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09-27-2022	1.3	1.3	0.117	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09-27-2022	0	15	3	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	2025	0.20	.15 - .26	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	Y	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	ND	ND	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	2.7	2.7-2.7	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	2024	0.80	.8 - .8	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	2	1.76 - 1.76	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2024	3	3 - 3	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
Uranium	2023	13.10	13 - 13.1	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
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CCR REPORT	07/01/2025 to 07/18/2025	07-18-2025	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.
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This violation was returned to compliance when the CCR was distributed to consumers and sent to the State of Montana DEQ.

Violation for Lead and Copper Rule

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	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. We will be testing in 2026.

The water system failed to sample for lead and copper during the monitoring period 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	12/01/2025 to 12/31/2025	03-02-2026	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.

STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	06/01/2025 to 06/30/2025	11-03-2025	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.
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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.

STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	07/01/2025 to 07/31/2025	11-03-2025	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.
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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.

STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	08/01/2025 to 08/31/2025	11-03-2025	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.
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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.

STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY	09/01/2025 to 09/30/2025	11-03-2025	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.
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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 Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE, MAJOR (RTCR)	06/01/2025 to 06/30/2025	07-02-2025	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.
This violation was returned to compliance when the required number of routine total coliform samples were collected and reported to the State of Montana DEQ.			
MONITORING, ROUTINE, MAJOR (RTCR)	08/01/2025 to 08/31/2025	09-24-2025	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.
This violation was returned to compliance when the required number of routine total coliform samples were collected and reported to the State of Montana DEQ.			



January 26, 2026

TOWN OF FROMBERG
MICHELLE AUCH
PO BOX 236
FROMBERG MT 59029

RE: Failure to Maintain the Disinfection Treatment Level – December 2025
TOWN OF FROMBERG, PWSID MT0000222.

Dear Michelle Auch,

This letter is to inform you that DEQ has determined that you are in violation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.38.229. Town Of Fromberg is required to maintain a minimum entry point chlorine residual concentration of 0.50mg/L. The disinfection data submitted to DEQ indicates that the daily chlorine residuals fell below the required minimum level during the monitoring period for December 2025. It is important that the water being served is at, or above, 0.50mg/L to ensure it is safe to drink.

To return your system to compliance, I recommend you do the following:

- Maintain a minimum chlorine residual of 0.50mg/L at the entry point and report the daily results to DEQ in your monthly report.
- and
- Provide Tier 2 public notification in accordance with ARM 17.38.239. Instructions and an example public notice with the required language are provided. Within ten days of issuing public notice, you must submit to DEQ a representative copy of each type of notice distributed to the public. Please be sure to specify the delivery date and method used for each notice.

Please be aware that failure to return to compliance may subject you to enforcement action.

If you would like to discuss this further or have other relevant information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dillon Johnson", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dillon Johnson
Montana Chlorination Rule Manager
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Public Water Supply Bureau
(406) 444 - 4633 | dillon.johnson@mt.gov

Cc: PWS File
CARBON County Sanitarian
BILLINGS OFFICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

TOWN OF FROMBERG

Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

During the month of December 2025 the chlorine disinfectant residual dropped below the required minimum 0.50 milligrams per liter at the entry point to the distribution system.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

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.

These symptoms, however, are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

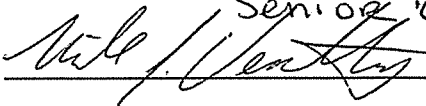
What happened? What is being done?

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.

For more information, please contact: TOWN OF FROMBERG at PO BOX 236 FROMBERG MT, or Phone 406-425-2400.

This notice is being sent to you by: TOWN OF FROMBERG, MT0000222 C

Date and Method Distributed: 2-2-26 Town Hall, Postoffice, + Senior Center

Signature and Date copy sent to DEQ/PWS: 

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for

Fromberg Town Of

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the summer of 2025 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for lead and copper 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.

What happened?

The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for during the last year, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Facility Name / Sample Point	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples will be taken
Lead and Copper ¹	Every 3 years	Distribution System (DS001 – SP001)		6/1/2025 – 9/30/2025	6/1/2026 – 9/30/2026

¹ Copper is an essential nutrient; however, some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years suffer liver kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead – Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

For more information, please contact _____

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 Fromberg Town Of MT0000222

Date and Method Distributed: _____

Date signed copy sent to DEQ/PWS: _____



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Gillette, WY 866.686.7175 • Helena, MT 877.472.0711

2025 Calendar Year Consumer Confidence Report Questionnaire

\$125.00 Fee OK	
System Name:	TOWN OF FROMBERG
PWS #:	MT 0000222
Contact Name on CCR:	Mike Ventling
Phone Number for Contact on CCR:	406 - 425 - 2400
Name of individual requesting CCR:	Mike Ventling
Phone Number of individual requesting CCR:	406 - 425 - 2400
Email to send CCR to:	publicworks@fromberg-mt.com

1. Are you a wholesaler that sells water to another water system?

Circle one: Yes ☐ No ☒

2. Is the system a "consecutive system" (a system that purchases water from another drinking water system)?

Circle one: Yes ☐ No ☒

If you purchase water from another system please indicate the name of the system:

3. In 2025, did the system have an uncorrected significant deficiency under the Ground Water Rule or is the system required to report a deficiency that was corrected?

Circle one: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details concerning any significant deficiency you have received. (What was the cause of the deficiency, what was done to correct the deficiency, Date the deficiency was corrected. If not corrected by end of year, include the plan to correct and progress to date.

You can include a copy of any letters from the state concerning significant deficiencies.

To the best of ^{my} knowledge as of Dec 2025. → Mike Ventling new/return PWD.

emailed
Gina McCartney
3-17-26

2025
Calendar Year Consumer Confidence Report Questionnaire

4. In 2025, did your system have any violations, including MT State Chlorine Rule? Circle one: Yes No

Please include details concerning any violations you have received. (What was the cause of the violation, what was done to correct the violation, and the duration of the violation).
You can include a copy of any letters from the state concerning violations.

5. Are you a chlorinating community system? yes Must have the Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDLS) concentrations for 2025.

Highest Level Detected in 2025- No records available as of 12.25.
Date of Highest Level Detected - Mike Ventling returned to position as PWD

6. Provide a list of known opportunities for public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality (e.g., time and place of regularly scheduled water board or city/county council meetings).

Second Thursday @ 6:30 pm

Surface Water and GWUDI Systems Only

7. Turbidity

Highest single measurement & date it occurred _____ NTU _____ Date

Darcy



October 24, 2025

ROMEO ANQUIANO
FROMBERG TOWN OF
PO BOX 236
FROMBERG MT 59029

Put on March 26

RE: Failure to Monitor or Report for Lead and Copper
Fromberg Town Of, PWSID: MT0000222

Dear Romeo Anquiano,

This letter is to inform you that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the Fromberg Town Of is in violation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.38.216 or 17.38.234 for Failure to Monitor or Report for Lead and Copper during the June 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, compliance period. These samples are important to assure that the water being supplied to your customers is safe. Our records indicate that the lead and copper data was not received as required. A failure to return to compliance may subject your water system to enforcement action.

To return your system to compliance, I recommend you do the following:

- Provide laboratory reports of sampling results to DEQ if you collected the samples within the above stated monitoring period.
- ✱ If you did not collect and submit samples for analysis in the above stated monitoring period, sample for lead and copper during the June 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, compliance period and report the results to DEQ.
- Provide Tier 3 public notification in accordance with ARM 17.38.239. Instructions for public notices are provided with this letter. An example public notice document that contains the required language to notify users is also included. Please be sure to specify the delivery date and method used for each notice as well as provide a copy of the notification to DEQ. The public notice can also be included in the annual Consumer Confidence Report as long as it is done within one year.

Please be reminded of the Consumer Notice requirement, which is due each time lead and copper samples are taken. The Consumer Notice must be provided to the customers where the samples were collected within 30 days of learning of the results. The Consumer Notice Certification form, along with a sample copy of a consumer notice, must be provided to the DEQ within 3 months after the applicable monitoring period.

If you would like to discuss this further or have other relevant information, documentation, or questions, please contact me at (406) 444-6652 or matthew.schmidt@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Matt Schmidt
Lead and Copper Rule Manager
leadandcopper@mt.gov
(406) 444-6652

CC: PWS File

Attachments: Instructions for Monitoring Violations Notice
Example Public Notice, "Important Information about Your Drinking Water"

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

TOWN OF FROMBERG

Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

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What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

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These symptoms, however, are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

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For more information, please contact: TOWN OF FROMBERG at PO BOX 236
FROMBERG MT, or Phone 406 - 425 - 2400

This notice is being sent to you by: TOWN OF FROMBERG, MT0000222 C

Date and Method Distributed: Post Office, Town Hall, Senior Center

Signature and Date copy sent to DEQ/PWS: Mike J. Voth 3-3-2026