SOMERS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Montana Public Water Supply ID number 000332

2019 Water Quality Report

In a continuing effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to once again provide you with an Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our water comes from two wells, one is 460 feet deep and the other is 320 feet deep. We currently have 283 service connections on our system and added three new connections last year. A sanitary survey inspection of our water system was conducted in March of last year. No significant deficiencies that may affect the quality of our drinking water were noted.

We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Somers Museum at 6:00 p.m.

Our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Andy Loudermilk at (406) 857-2580. Andy is our certified operator with 20 years of experience. He attends periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements. The most recent training course Andy attended was in February of last year. Bruce Gietzen is our part-time/backup operator working toward his certification.

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

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife
2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4) Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
5) 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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. The Somers Water District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We take all of our water samples to Montana Environmental Laboratory in Kalispell (406-755-2131). They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations. The following tests were conducted from January 1st to December 31st 2019:

- 37 coliform bacteria tests.
- 1 Nitrate plus Nitrite test on each of our wells – results were within EPA guidelines.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality requires that we test for asbestos in our drinking water. As our distribution system contains no asbestos cement pipe, we have applied for and been granted a monitoring waiver for asbestos. This waiver allows our system to sample only once every nine years for this contaminant. Due to the purity of our water, we have applied for and been issued a monitoring waiver for six inorganic contaminants. Past sampling has shown that these contaminants are either not present in our water or occur in such small amounts that they do not warrant a health hazard. This waiver covers the period from 2011 to 2019.

The following tables list the contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of our data in the table is more than a year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year.

Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE-MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	3-5-19 3-7-19 7-8-19 7-9-19 7-24-19	Five Positive Samples in 2019	Positive Sample	0	0	Naturally occurring in the environment
Alpha Emitters Well #2	N	3-25-11	3.1 +/- 2.1	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium Well #1 Well #2	N	6-23-14	0.08 0.10	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	9-17-18	90th % is 0.12	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing / naturally occurring
Fluoride Well #1 Well #2	N	6-23-14	0.12 0.13	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate + Nitrite Well #1 Well #2	N	5-7-19	2.78 0.96	ppm	10	10	Naturally occurring at this level
Lead	N	9-17-18	90th % is 6	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing / naturally occurring
Radium 226 Well #1 Well #2	N	3-25-11	0.2 0.2	pCi/L	0	5	Natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants and Other Water Quality Parameters

CONTAMINANTS	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASUREMENT	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Hardness	12-5-01	218	ppm	Naturally occurring. This is equivalent to 13 grains per gallon of hardness
Iron	12-5-01	0.5	ppm	Naturally occurring.
Sodium	12-5-01	26	ppm	Naturally occurring.
Sulfate	6-23-14	8.8	ppm	Naturally occurring.

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" 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.

PPM - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

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

pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter - a very small unit of measurement of radioactivity.

What do these tables tell us?

As you can see our system had no MCL violations. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although 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.

Our testing uncovered the presence of coliform bacteria in March and July. Although coliform bacteria are usually harmless, their presence in water is an indication that other harmful bacteria may be present. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow up tests are conducted to determine if harmful bacteria are present. In our case one repeat sample in March and two repeat samples in July contained coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. We conducted level two assessments of our system. We believe the problem was caused by a leaky fitting in our 2018 Summit Avenue water project. We corrected the problem and also removed a dead end line at Pickleville Road. We flushed the system, and in August our sample was coliform free.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by a certified laboratory like the one we send our samples to (Montana Environmental Laboratory, 406-755-2131). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead .

In March of 2003, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review from Rita Graham. It is also available online at http://svc.mt.gov/deq/dst/#/app/swp. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Contaminant Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Possible Management
Domestic wells	Various	Surface leakage	Low	Clay rich confining layer	Low to moderate	Lock wells, Groundwater monitoring program
Septic Systems	Nitrates	Leaks and leaching of contaminants into the groundwater	Low	Clay rich confining layer	Low	Monitoring program
Domestic residences	Household chemicals	Spills, leaks or improper application	Low	Clay rich confining layer	Low	Educate homeowners, Spill and leak control program, Apply chemicals at the proper rates

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

Prepared by Montana Environmental Lab, LLC 1/20