

TOWN OF ALBERTON

Montana Public Water Supply ID number: 0000015

2023 Water Quality Report

In an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you every day, we're pleased to provide you with this year's 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.

We want you, our valued customers to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our monthly meetings held at Alberton Town Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

We are pleased to report that 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 Matthew Jenkins at (970) 641-0965. Matthew is our certified operator with five years of experience. He attends periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements. The most recent training he received was in May and the topics included: water operations, distribution system maintenance, regulations, mathematics, chemistry, and safety.

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 Town of Alberton 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 is in compliance with EPA and State drinking water regulations. In keeping with our monitoring schedule, established by EPA regulations, the following tests were conducted from January 1st to December 31st 2023:

- 16 coliform bacteria.
- 1 nitrate plus nitrite test on each of our water sources – results were within EPA guidelines.
- Tests to determine the possible presence of 10 disinfection byproducts – none were detected.

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 not test for this contaminant. This waiver covers the period from 2020 to 2028.

The following table lists the contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of our data in the table may be 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 MEASUREMENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	10-4-23	One Positive Sample	Positive Sample	0	0	Naturally occurring in the environment
Arsenic Well 1	N	6-16-20	2	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Alberton Springs Well 1	N	6-16-20	0.04 0.61	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	2023	0.50 (0.1 - 0.5)	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper	N	6-27-21	0.17	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing / naturally occurring
Fluoride Alberton Springs Well 1	N	6-16-20	0.03 0.09	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth: Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	6-27-21	2	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate + Nitrite Alberton Springs Well 1	N	11-14-23	0.44 2.00	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium Well 1	N	6-16-20	7.0	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

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.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. **MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**-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.

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 does this table 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 did uncover the possible presence of coliform bacteria during October. 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 all repeat samples were coliform free.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or manmade. 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.

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. To ensure its purity, we disinfect our water with chlorine. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ) requires we record the level of chlorine daily. Every month we are required to submit a copy of the daily chlorine log to MTDEQ. Due to a malfunction in our internet service, our email was not sent to MTDEQ for the month of November on time. We received a monitoring violation for that month. Inadequately treated water may contain diseasecausing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. All samples for the month of November exceeded the required minimum disinfection level, and we returned to compliance once we sent our log in January. In the future, we will ensure our email gets to MTDEQ on time.

Our water comes from one spring, Alberton Springs, and one groundwater well that is 300 feet deep. The well is located on Parkway Drive between 3rd and 5th Streets at the center of town on the south side of the old railroad grade. To ensure its' purity, we treat our water by adding a small amount of chlorine. We have 207 service connections on our system and added three new connections last year.

In May of 2005 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 online at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/programs/dw-sourcewater>. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
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Backup Well						
Cenex Storage Tanks	Gasoline	Leakage	Low	Depth of intake >100'	Low	Vigorous monitoring and maintenance
Milwaukee Rd Roundhouse	Fuels, solvents	Leaching from historic contamination	Low	Depth of intake >100'	Low	Oversight by DEQ Remediation Division
Municipal Sewer Mains	Nitrate, pathogens	Leakage	High	Depth of intake >100'	Moderate	Maintenance to repair leaking lines
Interstate 90	Various hazardous materials	Large spills	High	Down-gradient location, Depth of intake >100'	Low	Emergency planning, training, of local emergency response personnel
Spring						
Fire in watershed	Sediments, firefighting chemicals (retardants), other solutes released from ash	Sediment clogging of drainage, fire related chemicals entering fracture flow system	High	None	High	Develop source water protection plan including fire management

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 6/24