

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**2023 Annual Water Quality Report  
Big Horn Regional Joint Powers Board  
Washakie Rural Improvement & Service District  
PO Box 346  
Worland WY 82401**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We have a source water assessment report at 1100 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street where you can get a copy.

I am pleased to report to our consumers that our drinking water is **safe** and meets **Federal and State** requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mike Neuffer at 307-347-4042 or 307-347-4737**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the third Wednesday of every month at 1100 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street**, or you can call Big Horn Regional Joint Powers Board at 307-347-4042 or Washakie Rural at 307-347-4737.

**BHRJPB and Washakie Rural** routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

You can obtain a copy of our source water assessment from 1100 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

*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* – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penning 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.

*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 MCLG's 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 MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

| Contaminant                     | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination                                    |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b> |               |                |                  |      |     |                                                                   |
| Alpha emitters                  | N             | 1.9            | pCi/L            | 0    | 15  | Erosion of natural deposits                                       |
| Combined radium                 | N             | 1.7            | pCi/L            | 0    | 5   | Erosion of natural deposits                                       |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |               |                |                  |      |     |                                                                   |
| Copper                          | N             | .06            | ppm              | 1.3  | NA  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion natural deposits |

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|                       |   |     |     |    |    |                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|---|-----|-----|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flouride              | N | .2  | ppm | 4  | 4  | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | N | .52 | ppm | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage, erosion of natural resources                              |
| Sodium                | N | 2.8 | ppm | NA | NA | Natural occurring                                                                                                         |

### Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products

|                                    |   |     |     |     |    |                                           |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|----|-------------------------------------------|
| TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)(2018) | N | .00 | ppb | N/A | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)            | N | .00 | ppb | N/A | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

What does this mean?

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.

Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA drinking water regulations.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 such as:

- 1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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 wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides which may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, 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, 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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink a half gallon 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking 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. Big Horn Regional Joint Powers Board 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>.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

BHRJPB and Washakie Rural work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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.

June 13, 2024

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