

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
for the
City of Sidney Water Department
115 Second St. S.E. - Sidney, MT 59270 - (406)433-1117

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is an Environmental Protection Agency requirement and is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. **Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.** We want you to understand the **efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.** Our water source is ground water from seven wells, which draw from an aquifer that is an ancient channel of the Yellowstone River. The wells are located on the west side of the city. The average amount of water used is 1,131,000 gallons per day. Average water consumption fluctuates from 600,000 gallons a day in the winter months to 3,000,000 gallons a day during the summer months.

The Sidney Water Department is always striving to maintain and improve the water and services provided to you. Over 41 miles of water mains are regularly maintained.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report, any questions, complaints or concerns about water quality, or concerning your water utility, please contact **Jason Elletson, Water Commissioner at (406)433-1117.** 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 first and third Monday of each month at City Hall, 6:30 PM.

City of Sidney Water Department routinely monitors 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 1st to December 31st, 2021. “Some of our data in the tables are more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. **Our sampling frequency complies with or exceeds EPA and State drinking water regulations.**”

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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 penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 MCLGs 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>Radioactive Contaminants</i>								
5. Gross Alpha	N	5-1-17	3.7	2.1-3.7	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
6. Combined radium	N	5-1-17	0.7	.5-.7	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>								
14. Copper	N	9-1-20	.43	.012-.43	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	7-20-20	ND	ND	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	9-1-20	.034	0-.034	ppm	0	AL=.15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	8-12-21	4.82	0.25-4.82	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<i>Volatile Organic Contaminants</i>								
73. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	8-19-21	29	29	ppb		80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	N	8-12-21	5.3	5.3	ppb		60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Bacteriological sampling is conducted monthly throughout the system and randomly from the wells to ensure the quality of the water delivered to our customers.

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. The City of Sidney Water Department 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

*What does this mean? As you can see by the table, **our system had No Violations! 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.***

The system tested for many other regulated and unregulated contaminants. One of the constituents tested for was sulfate and the level detected was 378 ppm. Sulfate is classified as an inorganic compound that currently does not have an MCL established by the EPA. Possible sources for this constituent are geological, steel and metal industries, and fungicide manufacturing. Another constituent tested for was Sodium. The detected level was 67 ppm. The hardness of the water was also tested with a result of 34.9 grains/gal or 598 mg/L. Please contact us about any other contaminant you may have questions about.

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

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters 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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. **Thank you for understanding.**

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 (800-426-4791).

Please call our office if you have questions. **We at the City of Sidney Water Department 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.**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report **will not be mailed** out to individual water customers. A copy of this report is available by calling or stopping by the City Hall at 115 2nd St. SE.