Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Ranch Co Water & Sewer District MT0003076

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024

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 Mark Smolen at 406-407-0301
Public Participation Opportunities: The District's board holds an annual meeting in July each year. The date will be set more than 30 days ahead of time and notated on your bill as well as our website: https://ranchhoa.org/water-district.html

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 EPAs 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 **Ranch Co Water & Sewer District**

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: The Ranch HOA Source Water Delineation & Assessment Report

The Ranch Co Water & Sewer District utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 2 SOUTH GWIC 164702	Well
CONSECUTIVE CONNECTION TO MT0000262	Consecutive Connection (Bigfork Water)
WELL 1 NORTH GWIC 79556	Well

Ranch County Water & Sewer provides water to a shared tank in the Ranch/Saddlehorn subdivision—Bigfork Water District supplies water to the shared tank for Saddlehorn use. Because they own and operate a community water supply with their own wells that also supply water to the shared tank, Bigfork Water is considered by the Montana DEQ and the Federal EPA to be a consecutive connection. What this means to the customer is that the potential exists for water from one system to be transmitted to the other through a shared line. We are required to also include Bigfork Water District's CCR with ours. You also have the ability to review the CCR for the Bigfork Water & Sewer District on their website at: https://bigforkwater.com/water-quality-report.

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	07-11-2023	1.3	1.3	0.18	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	07-11-2023	0	15	1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Coliform Bacteria						
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No of Positive E Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	6 (retests)		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Assessments					
During the past year we were required to conduct Assessment(s)	Number of assessments required in the reporting year	Number of assessments completed in the reporting year	Number of corrective actions required	Number of corrective actions completed	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
Level 1	1	1	1	1	The system was chlorinated under the advice and guidance of DEQ, flushed and then chlorinated to a sufficient and safe level for consumption. A Level 1 assessment was performed and accepted by DEQ. All subsequent tests passed showing coliforms absent—no further assessments were required.
Level II	0	0	0	0	
Level II	0	0	0	0	

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2023	0.03	.03 - .03	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	0.14	.14 - .14	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	1	.99 - .99	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants								
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2021	2.10	2.1 - 2.1	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Bigfork County Water and Sewer MT0000262

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024

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 Tyler Hantz at (406) 837-4566.
Public Participation Opportunities: The District holds monthly board meetings which are posted on the District website @ www.bigforkwater.com.

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 some small amounts of 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 EPAs 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 individuals may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, individuals 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 individuals 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 **Bigfork County Water and Sewer**

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/files/Water/WPB/NRISReports/MT0000262.pdf

Bigfork County Water and Sewer utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 1 NORTH GWIC 132061	Well
WELL 2 WEST GWIC 139453	Well
RAMSFIELD WELL 3 GWIC 280599	Well
RAMSFIELD WELL 4 NORTHWEST GWIC 280648	Well

Bigfork Water & Sewer provides water to a shared tank in the Ranch subdivision. Because they own and operate a community water supply with their own wells that also supply water to the shared tank, Ranch County Water is considered by the Montana DEQ and the Federal EPA to be a consecutive connection. What this means to the customer is that the potential exists for water from one system to be transmitted to the other through a shared line. Customers wishing to review the CCR for the Ranch District are encouraged to call our office (406) 837-4566 to request this information. Bigfork Water & Sewer also provides water to the Bigfork Motor Coach which is also considered by Montana DEQ and the Federal EPA to be a consecutive connection. The Public Water Supply (PWS) number for Bigfork is MT0000262; and for Ranch is MT0003076; and for Bigfork Motor Coach is MT0005012.

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 contaminants in drinking water.

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor 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	09-08-2023	1.3	1.3	0.09	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09-08-2023	0	15	1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants								
Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants								
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2023	0.28	.28 - .28	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	0.04	.04 - .04	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	0.22	.22 - .22	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2023	1	1 - 1	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
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & Uranium	2024	3.30	3.3 - 3.3	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2024	0.90	.9 - .9	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.