

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, 2002 Colstrip Water Treatment Plant

**Dear Customer:** We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. PP&L Montana pumps water from the Yellowstone River six miles west of Forsyth to Castle Rock Lake. Our system draws surface water from Castle Rock Lake and is treated at The Colstrip Water Treatment Plant.

**I'm pleased to report 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 **John Bleth [748-2300]** or **Bryan Swan [748-3924]**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have comments or concerns, please attend any of our regularly scheduled city council meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

The Colstrip Water Treatment Plant 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 31, 2002**. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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 materials and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

*Contaminates 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, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

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).

*Definitions:*

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

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - 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** - 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	MCLG	MCL	Highest Compliance level	Violation Yes/No	Range of Detection	Year, Date Obtained
<b>Inorganic Contaminant</b>						
<b>Fluoride F-</b>	4	4	1.43ppm	NO		08/02
Other Information	Fluoride is added to our drinking water.					
Likely Source of Contamination	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories					
<b>Sodium</b>	MNR	MNR	50ppm	NO		08/02
Other Information						
Likely Source of Contamination	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching					
<b>Copper CU</b>	1.3 ppm	Al=1.3ppm	.29 ppm 90th percentile	NO		09/97
Other Information						
Likely Source of Contamination	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives					

<b>Lead PB</b>	15 ppb	Al=15 ppb	6 ppb 90th percentile	NO		09/97
Other Information						
Likely Source of Contamination		Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits				
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
<b>Turbidity</b>	NA	TT<=0.5	.492 NTU	NO		07/02
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
<b>Alpha Emitters</b>	0	15	1.0 ppm	NO		08/02
Other Information						
Likely Source of Contamination		Erosion of natural deposits				
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]</b>	0	100	18.0 ppb	NO		08/02
Other Information						
Likely Source of Contamination		By-product of drinking water chlorination				

Listed below are abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

AL Action Level

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppm parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

TT Treatment Technique

n/a not applicable

Highest Compliance Level: The highest level of that contaminant used to determine compliance with a national Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Range of Detections: The lowest to the highest result value recorded during the required monitoring time frame.

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.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes

before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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.

Please call our office if you have questions. 748-2300.

We at The Colstrip Water Treatment Plant 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.

**For more information contact:**

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