Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Belt

PWSID#MT0000138

#70 Castner Street

Belt, MT 59412

We're very pleased to provide you with the annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is 2 wells from the Madison aquifer.

We're 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, please contact Lynn Schilling at 406-277-3621. You may also attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

The City of Belt routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of any detects in our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2024.** For constituents that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back to the last time the constituent was monitored.

Parameter	Date	90th % value	Units	Action Level	#Sites Over AL	Source of Contamination
Lead	09/27/2022	1	ppb	15	0	Household plumbing
Copper	09/27/2022	0.076	ppm	1.3	0	Household plumbing

In the tables above and below 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 billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.
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.
Action Level - 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)-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.
Maximum Residual Detection Limit 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.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)-picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
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.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	**Violation Y/N**	**Sample Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range**	**Unit of Measurement**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	N	2024	0.38	0.30-0.38	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2021	0.5	0.5-0.5	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined Radium 226/228	N	2022	0.9-0.9	0.9	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	N	2021	1.7	1.6-1.7	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits.

Microbial Contaminants							
Parameter	**Violation Y/N**	**Date**	**# Months Positive**	**Unit Measurement**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Total Coliform	N	Monthly	09/10/24-1	0	0	1	Soil Runoff

Violations: Our system failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. This was for the 09/11/24 to 09/17/24 period. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected. The water system failed to monitor for triggered source water sample as required so the violation is still outstanding.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.
Our system failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period of 10/01/24 to 10/31/24 indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Our system returned to compliance when the required number of routine total coliform samples were collected and reported to the MT DEQ on 11/14/24.

Total Coliform: Total Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Our system had 1 positive total coliform bacteria in the month of September. We were required to take 5 (five) follow-up samples. The follow up samples did not indicate any total coliform. The positive was attributed to sampling error.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some

people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Uranium: Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Combined Radium: Some people who drink water containing Radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 Belt 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 the 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.

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.

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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people 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).

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.