Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID MT0002390
TREASURE STATE ACRES
PO Box 1632
East Helena, MT 59635
(406) 227-6589

Potable water is one of the most vital services provided to community residents. All of us depend on water for drinking, cooking, washing, carrying away waste, and other domestic needs. For the most part, we don't think about how drinking water gets to our homes or where that water comes from. We just want to be sure that our water is safe and keeps flowing to our taps.

The goal of the Treasure State Acres is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Because of our commitment to ensuring the quality of your drinking water, we want to keep you informed about the activities and testing we do to ensure that your water is safe. We are pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our scheduled city council meetings. To confirm meeting dates and times, or if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robert Much at 406-227-6589.

WATER SOURCE

Treasure State Acres obtains water from two wells (Sources WL002 and WL003). The service area comprises the housing area northwest of the wells. The wells are located near the southeastern property boundary.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A Source Water Assessment was performed in 2003. Treasure State Acres has identified significant potential contaminant sources within the spill response region. A Susceptibility Assessment was conducted and our susceptibility to potential contaminant sources is summarized in the table below (Table 6 in the assessment report). The State website to view the full Source Water Assessment is: https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater

Table 6. Susceptibility assessment of significant potential contaminant sources in the Control Zone and Inventory Region

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
Inventory Zone						
Sanitary Sewer System	Pathogens and Nitrate	Infiltration	High	None	Very High	Monitor integrity of sewer lines
Agricultural Land	Pesticides/ Herbicides/ Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	Low	None	Moderate	Promote the use and development of agricultural BMPs for the area
Septic Systems	Pathogens and Nitrate	Infiltration and Runoff	High	None	Very High	Monitor septic system performance
Former Helena Landfill (Bill Roberts GC)	Various Organic Chemicals	Infiltration and Runoff	High	None	Very High	Existing water contamination, Review landfill monitoring results
UST Sites (within 1 year time of travel)	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Infiltration and Runoff	High	Compliance with UST regulations	High	Develop emergency response plan
UST Sites (within 3-year time of travel)	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Infiltration and Runoff	Moderate	Compliance with UST regulations	Moderate	Develop emergency response plan
LUST Sites (within 3-year time of travel)	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Infiltration and Runoff	Moderate	None	High	Review LUST Status, Develop emergency response plan
MPC Former Manufactured Gas Plant	Various Chemicals	Infiltration	Moderate	None	High	Monitor CECRA site progress
Burlington Northern Railroad Yard	Various Chemicals	Infiltration	Moderate	None	High	Monitor CECRA site progress
Yellowstone Pipeline	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Spills	Moderate	Spill Response Plan	Moderate	Create emergency response plan
Gravel Pits	Various Chemicals	Direct Infiltration	High	None	Very high	Develop plan to limit access to gravel pits
Major Roads	Various Chemicals	Spills	High	None	Very high	Develop emergency response plan

Railroad Lines	Various Chemicals	Spills	Moderate	None	High	Develop emergency response plan
Surface Water Buffer Zone						
Cropped Agricultural Land	Pesticides/ Herbicides/ Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	High	None	Very High	Promote the use and development of agricultural BMPs
Sanitary Sewer System	Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	High	None	Very High	Monitor sewer system performance
Septic Systems	Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	Moderate	None	High	Monitor septic system performance
Recharge Area						
Tenmile Superfund Site (and other mines)	Metals	Infiltration and Runoff	Low	None	Moderate	Monitor progress of superfund remediation of area
Cropped Agricultural Land	Pesticides/ Herbicides/ Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	Low	None	Moderate	Promote the use and development of agricultural BMPs for the area
Septic Systems	Pesticides/ Herbicides/ Nitrates and Pathogens	Infiltration and Runoff	Low	None	Moderate	Monitor septic system performance

In the results table and the following information, you may find terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

ppm (Parts per million): one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
ppb (Parts per billion): one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
MFL (Million Fibers per Liter): The measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
pCi/L (Picocuries per liter): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
N/A: Not applicable.
MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest allowable amount of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
90th Percentile Value: The concentration of lead or copper in tap water exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period.
Waivers: Reduction or exclusion of monitoring requirements for certain compounds. Waivers are granted by the State of Montana, based on a water system's previous monitoring history.
Level I Assessment: 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 II Assessment: 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.
Entry Point (EP): The point at which water is discharged into the distribution system from a well, storage tank, pressure tank, or water treatment plant.
Distribution System (DS): The delivery system of water available for a water system. This includes all of the pipes and devices that provide water to the fixtures.
Raw Water (RW): Directly from the source (such as a well) prior to treatment.

MONITORING

Treasure State Acres routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. The State of Montana requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some data in the tables, though representative, may be more than one year old. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and State regulations. The table includes constituents detected by our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2025**.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Result	Units	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	N	2025	90th Percentile Value 0.086	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	2025	90th Percentile Value 2	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	01/07/2025	0.731	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	07/21/2025	2	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride	N	07/21/2025	0.619	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Uranium	N	05/10/2022	2	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants							
Secondary Contaminant	**Violation Y/N**	**Sample Date**	**Result**	**Units**	**SMCL**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination or reason for monitoring**
Manganese RW002 RW003	 N N	 10/02/2024 10/02/2024	 ND 6	ppb	50	NA	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses

Bacteriological Monitoring – We monitor our water supply for total coliform and E. coli bacteria monthly. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, we always perform special follow-up tests to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. In 2025 monitoring, coliform bacteria were not detected in our water.

Nitrate – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you care for an infant, you may wish to ask advice from your health care provider. In **2025** testing, Nitrate was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Inorganic Compounds (IOCs) – Testing for Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Fluoride, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, and Thallium was done in **2025**. Fluoride was detected in our water but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Arsenic in Drinking Water – The US EPA has revised the regulations governing the amount of arsenic allowable in public drinking water supplies. Beginning January 23, 2006, the MCL for arsenic is 10 ppb and the MCLG is 0 ppb. In **2025** testing, was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Lead and Copper – **Lead:** 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 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. **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 that water contains 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. In **2025** testing, Lead and Copper were detected in our water system but below the Action Level set by the EPA.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – VOCs are petroleum byproducts, including fuels such as gasoline and diesel; lighter fluid; fuel additives; solvents such as benzene and toluene; cleaning compounds such as dry-cleaning solution, degreasers, refrigerants and adhesives. The EPA regulates the amount of certain VOCs in drinking water, while the EPA and the State monitor the presence of other VOCs in drinking water. Over 60 organic compounds were tested during **2025**, and none were detected in our water system.

Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) – SOCs encompass a wide range of organic compounds, including pesticides and herbicides used for crops and lawns; wood preservatives; PCBs from electrical transformers; and byproducts from PVC and other plastics, including phthalates and adipates. SOCs may be released during manufacturing processes, runoff from fields where herbicides or pesticides have been used, and disposal of industrial wastes. Nearly 40 different compounds were tested in **2025**, and none were detected in our water system.

Radionuclides – Alpha emitters are certain minerals which are radioactive, and which may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Radium-226 and Radium-228 are naturally occurring radioactive contaminants that occur primarily in ground water. Our water system tested for Radium-226, Radium-228, and Alpha emitters in **2022** and none were detected in our water system.

Uranium – Uranium is a naturally occurring element found at low levels in virtually all rock, soil, and water. Significant concentrations of uranium occur in some substances such as phosphate rock deposits, and minerals such as uraninite in uranium-rich ores. Uranium can enter the body when it is inhaled or swallowed in water or food. In **2022** testing, Uranium was detected in our water but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Manganese – Manganese is not a regulated contaminant and water, and soil, may naturally have manganese. When Manganese is greater than 50 ppb the water may be discolored and have a bad taste. Manganese is an essential nutrient for humans and animals at low doses, but chronic exposure to high doses may be harmful. The health effects from over-exposure of manganese are dependent on the route of exposure, the chemical form, the age at exposure, and an individual's nutritional status. Regardless, the nervous system has been determined to be the primary target organ with neurological effects generally observed. See EPA's "Drinking Water Health Advisory for Manganese" document EPA-822-R-04-003 for more information. We tested Manganese in both of our wells **2024**. Manganese was not detected in RW002 but was detected in RW003.

INTERPRETATION

We continually monitor various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Some constituents have been detected in our water, as described above. If you would like more information about these contaminants, you may contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. We at the Treasure State Acres *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.*

About 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.

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

MCLs 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.

Did you know...?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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).

Prepared by the Department of Public Health and Human Services Environmental Laboratory (406) 444-2642