



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Big Sky County Water And Sewer District 363 MT0002385

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

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 Clark Flaharty, Operations Manager at clark@wsd363.com.

Public Participation Opportunities: The public is always welcome to attend our monthly board meetings, held on the third Tuesday of every month. All meetings are noticed on our website bigskywatersewer.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 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 EPA's 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 Big Sky County Water And Sewer District 363

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/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater>

On the webpage scroll down and look under the subtitle "Montana Source Water Protection Viewer" and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called "Source Water Reports" at the top.

Big Sky County Water And Sewer District 363 utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL MTNV 1 GWIC 108809	Well
WELL MTNV 5 CASCADE 5 GWIC 248989	Well
WELL MTNV 4 GWIC 103496	Well
WELL MTNV 6 CASCADE 6 GWIC 244347	Well
WELL MTNV 2 GWIC 108810	Well
WELL MTNV 3 GWIC 108811	Well
WELL MEADOW VILLAGE MDV 3 GWIC 166989	Well
WELL MEADOW VILLAGE 4 MDV 4 GWIC 236777	Well
WELL MEADOW VILLAGE 5 MDW 5 GWIC 236778	Well
WELL LONE MOOSE 1 GWIC 170083	Well
WELL LONE MOOSE 2 GWIC 187212	Well
WELL MEADOW VILLAGE MDV 1 GWIC 103505	Well
WELL MEADOW VILLAGE MDV 2 GWIC 103507	Well
WELL MTNV 7 GWIC 205931	Well

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	2025	1.3	1.3	0.356	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2025	0	15	4.84	2	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
Arsenic	2025	5.26	ND - 5.26	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
<p>While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.</p>								
Barium	2025	0.1770	.00568 - .177	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2025	0.9460	.0968 - .946	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	2	ND - 2.19	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2025	1.21	ND - 1.21	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Total Antimony	2025	0.2640	ND - .264	6	6	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.

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	2025	1.88	1.3 - 1.88	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2025	0.50	ND - .5	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant Group: Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2025	1.40	ND - 1.4	0	6	ppb	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	Units	Sample Point ID/Type/Name						
					EP502	EP	EP FOR 1	2	3	4	7
PFBS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l	EP502	EP	EP FOR 1	2	3	4	7
PFHpA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFHxS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
PFNA	2025	<0.004	0.004	ug/l							
PFOS	2025	<0.004	0.004	ug/l							
PFOA	2025	<0.004	0.004	ug/l							
PFDA	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
PFDoA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFHxA	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
PFUnA	2025	<0.002		ug/l							
11Cl-PF3OUdS	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l							
9Cl-PF3ONS	2025	<0.002		ug/l							
ADONA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
HFPO-DA	2025	<0.005	0.01	ug/l							
PFBA	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l							
6:2 FTS	2025	<0.005		ug/l							
4:2FTS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
8:2 FTS	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l							
PFMPA	2025	<0.004		ug/l							
PFPeA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFMBA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFEESA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
NFDHA	2025	<0.02		ug/l							
PFPes	2025	<0.004		ug/l							
PFHpS	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFBS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l	EP513	EP	UV TREATMENT PLANT	EP513			
PFHpA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
PFHxS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
PFNA	2025	<0.004	0.004	ug/l							
PFOS	2025	<0.004	0.0040	ug/l							
PFOA	2025	<0.004	0.0040	ug/l							
PFDA	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l							
PFDoA	2025	<0.003		ug/l							
Unregulated Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	Units	Sample Point ID/Type/Name						

PFHxA	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l	
PFUnA	2025	<0.002		ug/l	
11Cl-PF3OUdS	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l	
9Cl-PF3ONS	2025	<0.002		ug/l	
ADONA	2025	<0.003		ug/l	
HFPO-DA	2025	<0.005	0.01	ug/l	
PFBA	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l	
6:2 FTS	2025	<0.005		ug/l	
4:2FTS	2025	<0.003	0.003	ug/l	
8:2 FTS	2025	<0.005	0.005	ug/l	
PFMPA	2025	<0.004		ug/l	
PFPeA	2025	<0.003		ug/l	
PFMBA	2025	<0.003		ug/l	
PFEESA	2025	<0.003		ug/l	
NFDHA	2025	<0.02		ug/l	
PFPeS	2025	<0.004		ug/l	
PFHpS	2025	<0.003		ug/l	

Our water system has sampled a series of unregulated contaminants as part of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard in the future.

As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Ph 406-995-2660 and email office@wsd363.com.

Results can also be found by visiting the EPA's UCMR 5 Data Finder website:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>

Violations

Violation for Nitrate and nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate and nitrite more than the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	04/01/2025 to 06/30/2025	07-07-2025	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

We have taken the necessary samples, albeit late, to return to compliance.