Copy of Town of Ranchester Consumer Confidence Report 2023

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Town of Ranchester gets its water from the Tongue River, which is influenced by Five Mile Creek and Wolf Creek drainages.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment for the Town of Ranchester water system was conducted in 2004 and can be reviewed at the Ranchester Water Plant. The report shows our water system is susceptible to mostly agricultural contamination.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:
microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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 amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

We want you to be informed about your water system. You may attend town council meetings, If you have any questions about this report or your water system please contact Gary Madden at 307-655-9702.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for 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. Town of Ranchester 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 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.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard 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.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all

contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	34.1	NA	NA	2023	No	
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	35.6	33.9	35.6	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	1.34	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from metal refineries

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
								and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.1	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		10	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Microbiological Contaminants								
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.	0	NA	NA	2023	No	
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	.053	NA	NA	2023	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	.096	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Alachlor (ppb)	0	2	.03	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	.015	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	0	200	.02	NA	NA	2023	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	.59	NA	NA	2023	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	.035	NA	NA	2023	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	.49	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	.16	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat (ppb)	20	20	.16	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endothall (ppb)	100	100	3.3	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	.0024	NA	NA	2023	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	700	4.2	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	.014	NA	NA	2023	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	0	200	.0031	NA	NA	2023	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	.015	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	.025	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	.041	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits,

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
								vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	.46	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	0	500	.044	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	.014	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	.04	NA	NA	2023	No	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	.04	NA	NA	2023	No	Herbicide runoff
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	.27	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	.28	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	.35	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	.3	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	.4	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	.28	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	.26	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	.23	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	.2	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	.28	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	.12	NA	NA	2023	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	.11	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
bromomethane (methyl bromide) (ppb)	.48	.48	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
NA	NA: not applicable

Unit Descriptions	
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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