Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Fort Belknap Agency Water System
PWSID#083090041

We're very pleased to provide you with the Annual Drinking 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 surface water from Milk River. We have completed a source water protection plan that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination to our drinking water supply. This plan may be obtained by contacting EPA at (406)-457-5009.

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 (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.

Contaminants that may be present include:
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 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 by-products 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 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.

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 **Scott Snow, at 406-353-2747** during the following hours; 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday. Utilities Commission meetings are held the third Tuesday every month at the Utilities Conference room.

Fort Belknap Agency Water System 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, 2018.** For constituents that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back five years.

We have monitored for lead and copper, and all of our samples have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Fort Belknap Agency Water System 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.

Date sampled	Parameter	90^{TH} percentile value	Unit of measurement	Action level	Source of contamination
8/23/16	Lead	<1	ppb	15	Household plumbing
8/23/16	Copper	0.037	ppm	1.3	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 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.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – A Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) 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 - (mandatory language) 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.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)-P*icocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Parameter	Units	Violation YES/NO	Highest single measurement Value & Date	Lowest monthly % of samples meeting the limits	MCL	Source of contamination
Turbidity	NTU	No	0.65 3/2/18	100% FOR ALL MONTHS	TT	Soil runoff

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	**Violation Y/N**	**Sample Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range**	**Unit of Measure ment**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic	N	2018	2	na	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	2018	0.08	na	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	2018	0.2	na	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite As N	N	2018	0.03	na	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage. Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products								
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs	Y	2018	134	66 - 146	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids HAAs	N	2018	27	16 - 30	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Our system had several violations. In February of 2018 we failed to get a Total Organic Carbon sample. We collected the sample several times but it froze on the way to the laboratory each time. In September of 2018, we also failed to get a Total Organic Carbon sample. Our system has been unable to achieve compliance with the limit for disinfection byproducts. Water samples showed that the amount of Total Trihalomethanes in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for all four quarters of 2018. We made modifications to our water tank in 2018 to address this problem and in 2019 we will be making changes to our water plant which we hope will help resolve this issue.

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.

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 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).

Our water utility is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water tower, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please contact us at 353-8313, 353-2747 or the Fort Belknap Tribal Police at 353-2933. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.

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.