ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2025

TRI-COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
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We're very pleased to provide you with this year's ***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 a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has determined that our source water is not susceptible to potential contaminants. In order to ensure that the system's groundwater supply is safe to drink for years to come, the source of the system's groundwater should be protected. The system's groundwater source is a glacial drift aquifer known as the Elk Valley Aquifer. This surficial aquifer is comprised of sand and gravel deposited by deltaic, beach, and/or glacial outwash processes near the end of Wiconsinan glaciation. The aquifer sets on relatively impermeable glacial till. This unconfined aquifer is around 35 feet thick in the wellfield area. The system's four wells developed within this aquifer range in depth from 28 feet to 40 feet. The concentration of total dissolved solids found in the water supply is approximately 420 milligrams per liter. The area is overlain by medium-grained soils. Recharge precipitation and surface contaminants will percolate through the soils at a moderate rate and through the sandy subsurface at a rapid rate. Additional information regarding this program may be obtained by contacting the water office.

This report is required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Tri-County Water would appreciate it if large volume water customers posted copies of the ***Annual Drinking Water Report*** in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Chad Blessum, manager, at 701-345-8595. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of each month at the office in Petersburg. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Mike Blessum at the number listed above.

Tri-County Water District (TWCD) routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025. As authorized and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for organic contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. (Pesticide: generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Herbicide: any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.)

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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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

Non-Detects (ND) – Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

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 (µg/L) – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10 million.

Action Level (AL) – 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 (MCL) – 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 (MCLG) – 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 Disinfection Level (MRDL) – The highest level allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits to the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Highest Compliance Level – The highest level of that contaminant used to determine compliance with a National Primacy Drinking Water regulation.

Range of Detections – The lowest to the highest result value recorded during the required monitoring timeframe for systems with multiple entry points.

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed on the table above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

Your water system monitors a number of unregulated organic contaminants, which could indicate contamination of the water supply from a pesticide or petroleum spill or leak. Our system had no violations. 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 contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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).

TEST RESULTS FOR TRI-COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	Date	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	No	1.33		3/24/2016	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	No	0.0524		4/3/2017	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drill wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	no	3.17	N/A	4/03/2017	ppb	100	100	Discharge from Steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	No	1.2	N/A	4/3/2017	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines
Fluoride	No	.586	N/A	4/3/2017	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper	No	0.0533	ND-0.13	8/19/2024	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	1.16	ND-1.40	8/19/2024	ppb	15	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	No	1.75	N/A	5/7/2025	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products								
TTHM	No	14		12/31/2025	ppb	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	No	None		12/31/2025	ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectants								
Chlorine	No	1.5	1.37 - 1.57	5/31/2024	ppm	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha, including RA, excluding RN & U	No	4.1	N/A	11/18/2025	pCi/L	15	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, combined (226, 228)	No	ND	N/A	11/18/2025	pCi/L	5	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium, combined	No	3.12	N/A	11/18/2025	ppb		30	Erosion of natural deposits

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two 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.

Unregulated Contaminants								
Contaminant	**Violation Yes/No**	**Date**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Level Detected**	**Unit of Measure**	**Range of Detections**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Manganese	No	4/3/2017			0.026	ppm	N/A	N/A

TEST RESULTS FOR CITY OF MCVILLE

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	Date	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	0.162	0.0871-0.211	8/14/2025	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	No detect	ND-ND	8/14/2025	ppb	15	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants								
Manganese	No	0.047		4/10/2017	ppm	N/A	N/A	
Disinfectants								
Chlorine	No	1.2	0.59 - 1.34	5/31/2024	ppm	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha, including RA, excluding RN & U	No	2	N/A	5/16/2025	pCi/L	15	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, combined (226, 228)	No	0.1676	N/A	5/16/2025	pCi/L	5	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium, combined	No	1.69	N/A	5/16/2025	ppb		30	Erosion of natural deposits

TEST RESULTS FOR GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT / DEVILS LAKE

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	Date	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	0.441	0.0143-0.622	7/14/2024	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	1.96	ND-5	7/14/2024	ppb	15	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products								
TTHM	No	3	N/A	12/31/2025	ppb	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	No	None	N/A	12/31/2025	ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic	0	4.49	N/A	3/17/2025	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate-Nitrite	No	0.533	N/A	3/17/2025	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants								
Chlorine	No	2.3	0.72 - 4.07	6/30/2025	ppm	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4 MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium, combined (226, 228)	No	0.4285	N/A	12/2/2025	pCi/L	5	5	Erosion of natural deposits.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsening learning and behavior problems. The children of people who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. TWCD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home.

Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact TWCD at 701-345-8595. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

USEPA has recently published the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The purpose of this revision is to strengthen public health protections by removing lead service lines within public water systems. One requirement of this rule revision was to inventory all drinking water service lines within our public water system and notify consumers which type of line serves each property. You may have recently received a letter from our system with this information. The inventory is a listing of all service lines and the material composition of each line. The types of lines being documented are Lead lines, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) and lines made of Unknown Material. Classification of a service line as being comprised of Unknown Service Line material indicates that our system cannot currently confirm the material of both the public and private portions of the line with written records. Non-lead lines were also documented; however, we were not required to notify consumers with documented nonlead lines. The classification of the type of service line serving a residence was based on historical data regarding the property and in some cases verification of the type of material on the privately owned side of the line by visual inspection or replacement records of the owner. **The current Service Line Inventory for our system has been completed and is available for viewing at our office OR is available online at tricountywater-nd.com. Please contact TCWD at 701-345-8595 should you have any questions.**

Additional work to update the service line inventory, including inspection of the line, may need to be performed to further document and confirm the type of material making up both the public and private portions of the line serving your home or business. We will need the help of home/building owners in order to access the service line on the private side of the service line to positively identify the material of the line that carries water within your home/building. Our system may perform this work with our own system employees or we may contract with engineering firms or third-party contractors to complete this work to improve our service line inventory.

The water we provide is treated with fluoride addition as part of the water treatment process to enhance dental health. For information regarding the level of fluoride in the finished water provided to our consumers, please contact TCWD at 701-345-8595.

Tri-County Water District, Greater Ramsey Water District, the City of McVille, and Devils Lake began initial monitoring for eighteen Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in 2025 in preparation for the new PFAS rule that will take effect in 2029. One sample was collected at each Entry Point to the distribution system as required, to determine if PFAS is currently in our drinking water. None of the contaminants included in this round of sampling were detected. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Tri-County Water District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Thank you for allowing us to provide your family with clean, quality water this year. 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.