

Hi-Country Water District Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2016

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. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 12 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

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?

Hi-Country's water comes from a ground water source, and is one of the purest in the country. Hi-Country Water District operates 1 well in the Snake River Alluvial Aquifer.

Source water assessment and its availability

There is no source water assessment for Hi-Country Water District.

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?

You may contact John Hanlon for questions about getting involved with the water board.

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.

Significant Deficiencies

In the 2016 report, Hi-Country Water District received six significant deficiencies pertaining to our ground water system from the EPA's 2015 Sanitary Survey of the system. Four of the deficiencies were completed. The water district is working closely with Clearwater Operations and the EPA to ensure the completion of the remaining two deficiencies regarding the cleaning and inspection of the water tank.

1. Well #1 (WL01) - Well vent improvements needed: well must be screened with #24 mesh corrosion-resistant screen to prevent contamination from entering the water system - reported on April 28, 2016.

Correction: #24 stainless steel mesh added to well vent opening with hose clamp on June 1, 2017.

2. Gravity Tank (ST01) - Storage tank not properly sealed: a hole, approximately 1/2 inch in diameter on the side of the hatch was noted - reported on April 28, 2016.

Correction: Noted that the hole is below ground and has rubber lining around it preventing contamination from entering well. Filled hole with waterproof silicone sealant on June 2, 2017.

3. Gravity Tank (ST01) - Storage tank not cleaned and inspected within the last 10 years - reported on April 28, 2016. Storage tank cleaning and inspection scheduled for July 14, 2017.

4. Gravity Tank (ST01) - Overflow on finished storage tank improperly constructed: screen is not #24 mesh corrosion-resistant screen - reported on April 28, 2016.

Correction: Removed screen from inside pipe and replaced with #24 stainless steel mesh on June 2, 2017.

5. Gravity Tank (ST01) - Unknown integrity of storage tank drain - reported on April 28, 2016. Storage tank cleaning and inspection scheduled for July 14, 2017.

6. Gravity Tank (ST01) - Air vent on finished water tank is improperly constructed: currently, the overflow also serves as the vent for the storage tank - reported on April 28, 2016.

Correction: Added an air vent to the storage tank lid 35.5 inches off of the lid with #24 stainless steel mesh and hose clamp over vent opening on June 2, 2017.

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. Hi-Country Water District 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)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.9	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.3	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.3	NA	NA	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		9	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	.7	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (RTCR) (% positive samples/month)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2016	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform (TCR) (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA	NA	2016	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.9	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.94	2016	2	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2016	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Violations and Exceedances								

Violations and Exceedances
<p>Copper - action level at consumer taps</p> <p>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 water containing 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. The violation occurred for all of 2016 starting on January 1, 2016. Samples were collected for Copper testing in September 2016 and results were reported by the lab on September 26, 2016 indicating that the system's 90th percentile exceeded the MCL for copper. Hi-Country Water District ensures you that we have worked and will continue to work closely with Clearwater Operations, the EPA, and WY DEQ to correct the source of the problem or implement treatment with corrosion control inhibitor to prevent elevated levels of copper entering the water through corrosion of copper plumbing. The next round of sampling for lead and copper was scheduled for the first semester of 2017 and the results came back below the MCL for both lead and copper.</p>

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (_g/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

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

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
	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

TT Violation	Explanation	Length	Health Effects Language	Explanation and Comment
Lead and copper rule violations	We have been required to provide additional treatment to reduce copper contamination due to exceedance of MCL for copper. We failed to provide the required treatment by the required date.	For all of 2016, starting on 01/01/16.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.	Working closely with Clearwater Operations, the EPA, and the WY DEQ on implementing corrosion control inhibitor treatment. Working with engineer to get plan submitted to DEQ. Tested for water quality parameters to indicate corrosivity of the water. Conducted first quarter lead and copper testing in May 2017 and results came back below the MCL for lead and copper.

For more information please contact:

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