

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Medora, North Dakota

2017

We're pleased to present to you this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our main water source is from the Southwest Water Pipeline.

The City of Medora is participating in the North Dakota Well Head Protection Program. The North Dakota Department of Health has prepared a source water assessment for the City of Medora. Information on these programs is available on request.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health, 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 Health has determined that our source water is *“not likely susceptible”* to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dell Beach at 623-4936. 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 first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except for June, July and August the meeting is at 7:00 p.m. in the Medora Community Center. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Dell at the number listed above.

The City of Medora Public Utility System would appreciate it if large volume water customers post copies of the *Annual Drinking Water Quality 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.

City of Medora Public Utility System 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 January 1st to December 31st, 2017. As authorized and approved by 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 inorganic 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.

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 Environmental Protection Agency (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 you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Not applicable (NA), No Detect (ND)

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 \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) –Pico curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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 - 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 - 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 Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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.

**2017 TEST RESULTS FOR THE CITY OF MEDORA and Southwest Water
Authority (SWA)**

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Units	Range	Date (year)	Violation Yes/No Other Info	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead/Copper-MEDORA								
Lead	0	AL=15	No Detect	ppb	NA	2016	0 sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0239	ppm	NA	2016	0 sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Microbiological Contaminants (SWA)								
Turbidity*	NA	TT=3	0.16	NTU	NA	2017	100% of samples met Turbidity Limits	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants (SWA)								
BARIUM	2	2	0.0126	Ppm	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling wastes
FLUORIDE	4	4	0.92	Ppm	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	0.05	ppm	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts-MEDORA								
Total Halo acetic Acids (HAA5)	NA	60	10	ppb	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	NA	80	6	ppb	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectants-MEDORA								
Chloramines	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4.0	2.6	ppm	1.5 to 3.2	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon Removal (SWA)								
Alkalinity, Source	NA	NA	171	mg/l	151 to 171	2017	No	Natural erosion, certain plant activities, certain industrial wastewater discharges
Carbon, Total Organic (TOC) - Finished	NA	TT	2.59	ppm	2.17 to 2.59	2017	No	Naturally present in the environment
Carbon, Total Organic (TOC)- Source	NA	TT	3.72	ppm	3.23 to 3.72	2017	No	Naturally present in the environment

Unregulated Contaminants (SWA)								
Alkalinity, Carbonate	NA	NA	5	ppm	ND to 5	2017	No	Natural erosion, plant activities and certain industrial waste discharges
Bicarbonate as HCO ₃	NA	NA	209	ppm	181 - 209	2017	No	Natural erosion, plant activities and certain industrial waste discharges

Surface Water Treatment Rule Monitoring Data:

Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits= 100

Highest Single Measurement = 0.16

*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. The Southwest Water Authority monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration system. Turbidity is measured every four hours during treatment plant operations. 100% of samples met turbidity limits.

Source Water Microbiological Monitoring:

SWA has a program of testing its untreated water supply for Cryptosporidium, Giardia & E-Coli as part of round 2 of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

- Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium. The most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. SWA monitoring did not detect any presence in the source water.
- Giardia is a microbial parasite commonly found in source water. SWA monitoring did not detect any presence in the source water.
- E. Coli-Form is a pathogenic parasite commonly found in surface water & originates in the intestinal tract of warm blooded animals. In the 12 samples taken, only 3 detected any presence in the source water with the highest measuring 3.1 MPN/100ml. Disinfection and filtration effectively removes Giardia.
- To obtain information about these tests you may contact Ken Knight, Water Treatment Plant operator or Sandy Burwick, SWA CFO/Office Administrator at 1-888-425-0241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com

*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. The City of Medora is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 and cooking.** If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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>.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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 (1-800-426-4791).

The City of Medora works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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.