

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Valier
PWSID#MT0000351
PO Box 512
Valier, MT 59486

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water 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 to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water from five wells. At the present time we serve about 452 people. 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 can be found online at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater>.

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 **Josh Clifford**. He is a certified operator with years of experience and can be reached at 406-289-0773. You may also attend our meetings. They are held on **the second Monday of each month at the Valier Civic Center at 7:00 pm**.

Valier 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, 2023**. For constituents that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back the last 5 years.

Valier has been issued a waiver for certain inorganic contaminants. This waiver allows our water system to sample only once every 9 years for these regulated contaminants: barium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury and selenium. Past sampling for these contaminants has shown that they are not

present in our water supply, or occur in such small amounts that they are not considered a health hazard. This waiver is in effect from 2021 through 2029.

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. Valier 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>.

Parameter	Date	90 th Percentile	Units	Action Level	# Over Action AL	Source of Contamination
Lead	2022	3	ppb	15	0	Household plumbing
Copper	2022	0.38	ppm	1.3	0	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 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.

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.

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)-Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Level 1 Assessment- A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment- A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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).

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	N	02/7/23	1.48	0-1.48	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	03/24/20	0.9	0.3-0.9	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	N	02/07/23	4.5	0-4.5	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	02/7/23	10.6	9-11	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbial Contaminants								
Parameter	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Number of Positive samples in a month	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Coliform	N	Monthly	3	Present/Absent	0	0	Soil Runoff	

Violations-Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicated that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

In January our system had three positive total coliform bacteria tests. Our system did a Level 1 Assessment and identified a problem with sample site. Plumbing was replaced and disinfected lines.

Our system had two positive total coliform bacteria tests in July. Our system disinfected the lines.

Our system had one positive total coliform bacteria test in October. Our follow up samples did not detect any issues.

Our system failed to collect follow up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected during 7/18/23 through 8/28/23 and 10/11/2023 through 11/1/2023.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing Fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Alpha Emitters: Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Combined Radium: Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Uranium: Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

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.

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.