

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

## FROM THE

### THE NORTHWEST RURAL WATER DISTRICT

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver every day. Our constant goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the delivery process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of the water we deliver.

As you will see in the table, our system had no violations. We are proud that the water we deliver is of a significantly higher quality than is required by all Federal and State regulations as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996. Through our monitoring and testing some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that our water **IS SAFE** at these levels. Thank you to our active customers for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, good quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

The Staff at the Northwest Rural Water District (NRWD) 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.

The NRWD and Shoshone Municipal Pipeline (SMP) routinely monitor for contaminants in the drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The attached table shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA establishes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### **WATER SUPPLY**

Our water source is Buffalo Bill Reservoir, which includes the drainages of the North Fork and the Southfork of the Shoshone River. Our water is treated at SMP's Water Treatment Plant located at the base of Cedar Mountain just west of Cody. The water from Buffalo Bill Reservoir is delivered to the Shoshone Municipal Pipeline Water Treatment Plant from the Bureau of Reclamation's Spirit Mountain Energy Dissipation Structure via four miles of pipe.

The source water is processed through a state-of-the-art plant using conventional treatment processes of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. After treatment, the water is delivered through the Shoshone Municipal Pipeline to Northwest Rural Water District's connection stations at Southfork, Heart Mountain-North Cody, Sage Creek-Cooper Lane, O'Donnell, North End, Garland, and Lovell as well as our customers in the Deaver-Frannie Service Area.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning our water utility, please contact Tony Rutherford, Manager, or Dan Nordland, Chief Operator, at the Northwest Rural Water District (NRWD) office at 307-527-4426. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please visit our office at 526 Stone Street in Cody, our website at [www.nrwcdodywy.com](http://www.nrwcdodywy.com), or attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the District's Office in Cody. You are also welcome to contact SMP at (307) 527-6492, [www.shoshonemunicipalpipeline.org](http://www.shoshonemunicipalpipeline.org), or visit the Water Treatment Plant at 50 Agua Via in Cody. The SMP monthly Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Water Treatment Plant.

*In addition, our water system was required by the EPA to sample for a series of unregulated contaminants in 2023 as well. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have drinking water standard set by EPA but still have a minimum reporting level. As our consumers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in the results of these samples, please contact the Manager or Chief Operator listed above.*

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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).

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. NRWD 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 two minutes before using the 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.

#### **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS (MCL's)**

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To experience 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.

The attached table shows test results. NRWD is responsible for sampling the water for Coliform Bacteria, Chlorine, Disinfection By Products, and Lead & Copper (every three years). Those samples are sent in for testing and the results of those tests are included in the chart. All other tests are performed or monitored by the SMP with the results provided to NRWD. Over 170 items are tested on a regular basis. The following chart indicates contaminants where detections occurred. Some of the data in the table is more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year. SMP and NRWD's sampling frequency complies with EPA drinking water regulations. The dates are listed for those tests not taken during 2023.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

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

**Parts per million (ppm)** – one part per million. **Parts per billion (ppb)** – one part per billion.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – 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 (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 disinfectant level goal (MRDLG)**: The level of all 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.

**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.

"#/100L" = The unit of measurement of Giardia and Cryptosporidium - or number of organisms per 100 liters of water.

Pico Curies per Liter - (pCi/L)      Action Level - (AL)      Running Annual Average - (RAA)

**RESULTS**

The NRWID reports there were no violations of the drinking water regulations. *In addition, unregulated contaminants were not detected at or above the minimum reporting level.* Some of our data in the table below may be more than one year old since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA drinking water regulations.

PRIMARY STANDARDS	Unit of Measurement	Range of Detection	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Parameter
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria at NRWID Test sites: 9 sites tested each month		0	0	No more than 1 positive For systems that Collect less than 40 Samples per month		Naturally present In the environment
Turbidity - SMP	NTU	0.03-0.07	0.07	No single sample greater than 1. 95% of the samples less than 0.3.	0	Soil run off

<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>						
Nitrate	ppm	0.07	0.07	10	10	
Copper	ppm	.006-.650	90th percentile was 0.138 No sampling	1.3 AL		Corrosion of plumbing
(tested 2022)			sites exceeded the AL.			
Lead	ppm	0.0-010	90th percentile was 0.000 No sampling	0.015 AL		Corrosion of plumbing
(tested 2022)			sites exceeded the AL.			
Sodium (optional)	ppm	18	18	No MCL		

<b>DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	22 - 24	23.0 (average)	80		
Total Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	ppb	21 - 25	23.0 (average)	60		By-product of disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	1.0-1.4	1.2 (average)			
<b>RADIONUCLIDES</b>						
Uranium	(tested 2019) Ppb	Not detected	Not detected	30		
Gross Alpha	(tested 2019) pCi/L	1.3	1.3	15		
Combined Radium	(tested 2019) pCi/L	0.7	0.7	5		

<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS &amp; UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>						
PH	Standard Units	7.58 - 8.40	8.06 (average)			
Sulfate	ppm	28	28			
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	85-118	100 (average)			
Calcium	ppm	32 - 56	40 (average)			
Hardness	ppm	39 - 68	55 (average)			
Iron	ppm	Not Tested	Not Tested			
Total alkalinity as CaCO3	ppm	40 - 69	59 (average)			
Cryptosporidium	#/100L	0	0			
Giardia	#/100L	0	0			