

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Pine Bluffs

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 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 wells draw groundwater from the High Plains Aquifer (Tertiary Brule and Quaternary Terrace Formations) and Lance/Fox Hills Aquifer. This water is chlorinated prior to entering the storage tanks. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Loren Lovitt at 307-245-3746. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

The Town of Pine Bluffs (Town) routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. Some of our data in the table is more than a year old since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

We tested for over 100 different contaminants and are proud to report that your drinking water currently meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA drinking water regulations. We have summarized test results in the following table. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels. Due to the detection of lead in some residences in 2021, the EPA mandated the Town of Pine Bluffs perform more stringent and comprehensive contaminant testing in 2022 and 2023. Details regarding this issue are described in this document and in Administrative Order SDWA-08-2023-0005 issued by the EPA on March 2, 2023.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper	N	0.35	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	N	0.6	ppm	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	N	0.004	ppm	0	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	6.2	ppm	10.0	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	N	3	ppb	0	10.0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	N	0.17	ppm	2.0	2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	N	4	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Radioactive Contaminants						
Uranium	N	12	µg/l	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (minus radon and uranium)	N	1	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	N	0.8	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproduct Contaminants						
Chlorine	N	0.2	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	12	ppb	NA	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	48	ppb	NA	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

You may find that you are not familiar with many of the terms and abbreviations in the table. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- 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 (ug/l)- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" 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" 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.
- Not Detected (ND) – The contaminant was not detected above laboratory detection limits.
- Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) – Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- Not Sampled (NS) – The listed contaminant was not tested for from January 1 through December 31, 2023.

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.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals, and in cases, radioactive materials. The water can also pick up substances such as:

- (1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.
- (2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, mining or farming.
- (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban storm runoff, and residential uses.
- (4) Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA establishes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

EXCEEDANCE OF AN ACTION LEVEL

Nitrate

1. The Town of Pine Bluffs exceeded the EPA Action Level for nitrates (5 ppm) but has not exceeded the MCL (10ppm) for nitrate. Nitrate level in drinking water above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months old. High nitrate levels in drinking water can result in blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, please contact your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time following rainfall event or agricultural activities. The Town addresses high nitrate levels before delivering water to our consumers by blending our shallow High Plains Aquifer water with our deeper Lance/Fox Hills Aquifer water. Over the course of the year, nitrate levels within the Town water may exceed 5ppm but did not exceed 10ppm.

VIOLATIONS

Total Coliform Bacteria

The Town of Pine Bluffs is required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During May 2019 we did not complete all monitoring for total coliform bacteria and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

Chlorine

The Town of Pine Bluffs is required to monitor the System's water for chlorine once each quarter. The Town failed to monitor the System's water for chlorine during the fourth quarter of 2023 (October 1 through December 31, 2023) and therefore, violated this requirement. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort. (Note: Samples for chlorine were collected prior to October 1 and after December 1, 2023 . This violation returned to compliance on December 31, 2023.

Lead and Copper Rule

1. The Town failed to perform follow-up monitoring and reporting between July 1, 2022 and June 9, 2023 due to violation of the Lead and Copper Rule. Because of this failure, the Town cannot guarantee the quality of your drinking water between July 1, 2022 and June 9, 2023. This violation returned to compliance on June 9, 2023.
2. The Town failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location which water was tested (September 29, 2022). The Town did not provide this information within 30 days after learning the results. This violation returned to compliance on June 29, 2023.
3. The Town failed to propose a treatment plan to the EPA to reduce lead and/or copper levels in your drinking water by or before April 1, 2022. This violation returned to compliance on July 26, 2023.
4. The Town failed to adequately educate the public regarding the health problems associated with elevated lead levels and their sources within the water system on December 1, 2021, April 1, 2022, and July 1, 2022. This violation returned to compliance on July 18, 2023.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. The Town is addressing the EPA Monitoring and Reporting violations and is complying with EPA's Administrative Order dated March 2, 2023, amended June 8, 2023.

What is being done?

The Town will complete the required monitoring of water quality parameters at the entry point to the distribution system or where otherwise directed. The Town will provide the required public notices and will re-gain compliance by the end of the second quarter of 2024.

The Lead and Copper Rule violations are discussed in more detail below.

Pine Bluffs Water System Violated the Lead and Copper Rule 2022-2023

Our water system violated the Lead and Copper Rule in 2021 and addressed the violations in 2022 and 2023. The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter the drinking water supply mainly from the corrosion of lead- and copper-containing plumbing materials. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation. We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. During the June 1 to September 30, 2021 monitoring period, the System's 90th percentile lead level was above the limit, or "action level". Because of this, the Town was required but failed to perform certain activities to ensure the safety of your drinking water in 2022. The Town received an EPA Administrative Order in March of 2023, amended in June of 2023 which addressed this and other reporting and sampling failures. This was discussed and addressed in last year's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

This section of the CCR addresses certain violations that carried over into 2023. These violations included: (1) failure to distribute pre-approved EPA public education material. We (the Town) addressed this distribution failure in June and July of 2023; (2) failure to distribute a Lead Consumer Notice (LCR). This was addressed on June 29, 2023; (3) failure to collect additional water quality parameter samples for lead and copper at residential tap locations. In 2023, we collected 29 water quality samples from Town of Pine Bluffs residential taps. This sampling took place in March, May, and July 2023; (4) failure to collect lead and copper samples at the entry point to the distribution system. In March and June 2023, we collected three water quality samples from the entry point to the distribution system; and (5) failure to provide an Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment or Source Water Treatment (OCCT/SOWT) recommendation to the EPA. On July 26, 2023, we submitted an OCCT/SOWT plan to the EPA.

As noted in the above table, all lead and copper samples were below the MCL and no treatment was required. The Town returned to compliance with the Lead and Copper rule by June 9, 2023. Through correspondence with the EPA, the Town has established 10 routine sampling locations which will be monitored in 2024.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- Do not boil your water to remove lead. Excessive boiling of water makes the lead more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. However, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

*Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

- The Town has met the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule and is in compliance as of July 26, 2023.
- The Town will perform routine compliance sampling in 2024.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Chief Water Operator, Loren Lovitt at 307-286-2741 or by mail at Town of Pine Bluffs, 215 Main Street, Pine Bluffs, Wyoming 82082.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*