

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, 2023

## El Mar/New Meadows Community Water System RSID 8916

### PWS #MT0000517

We are 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 and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water from seven wells. El Mar/New Meadows water system is Rural Special Improvement District 8916 and is managed by Missoula County Public Works. No regular meetings are held. 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 <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/swap/swapquery.asp>.

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.

#### Important information about Lead in Drinking Water:

We monitored for lead and copper in 2023 and will monitor again in 2026. All samples comply with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Missoula County 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	90th % value	Units	Action level	Source of Contamination
Lead	8/7/2023	0.001	Ppm	.015	Household plumbing
Copper	8/7/2023	0.069	Ppm	1.3	Household plumbing

**The Test Result table uses terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:**

No Detects (**ND**) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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 (**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" (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. 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.

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.

Picocuries per liter (**pCi/L**)- picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

El Mar Estates/New Meadows water system monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator that your drinking water has or has not met health standards. The table on the next page shows the results of any detects in our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2022. For contaminants that are not monitored yearly, the table has the most recent data per DEQ/EPA required monitoring.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate+Nitrite as N	N	9/11/2023	1.34	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	2/20/2020	0.58	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	2/20/2020	0.001	ppm	0	0.01 ppm	Naturally occurs in some drinking water
Combined Uranium	N	2/20/2020	0.0013	ppm	0	0.03	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228	N	2/20/2020	1.7	pCi/L	0	5 pCi/L	Naturally occurs in some drinking water

#### **EPA SECONDARY STANDARD**

Manganese	N	11/15/2022	0.005	ppm		0.05	Naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater
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**Arsenic** - Drinking water with low levels of arsenic over a long time is associated with diabetes and increased risk of cancers of the bladder, lungs, liver, and other organs. Arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, reduced intelligence in children, and skin problems, such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns. Health impacts of arsenic may take many years to develop, especially if you are in contact with arsenic at a low level over a long time.

**Barium** - Some people who drink water that contains barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

**Copper** - 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 that water contains 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.

**Lead** - Infants and children who drink water that contains 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.

**Nitrate+Nitrite** - Infants below the age of six months who drink water that contains nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and if untreated could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

**Combined Uranium** -Exposure to uranium in drinking water may result in toxic effects to the kidney. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters, such as uranium, in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Combined Radium 226 & 228** -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.

**Manganese** - Manganese may become noticeable in water at levels greater than 0.05 milligrams per liter (mg/L). At this level, the water will have a brown color and may leave black deposits on sinks and bathroom fixtures. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has developed a health advisory level (HAL) for manganese in drinking water of 0.3 mg/L which is intended to be protective of life-time exposure for the general population.

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). 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.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.** This report will not be mailed but if you would like a copy or if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Greg Evison at 406-396-9453 or [gevison@missoulacounty.us](mailto:gevison@missoulacounty.us)