

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, 2023**  
**Sunset West Water System RSID 8925**  
**PWS #MT0001857**

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the 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. The Sunset West water system is owned by a Rural Special Improvement District and is managed by Missoula County. No regular meetings are held. Our groundwater well is located at the NW corner of Lee Lane and George Cates Blvd. Groundwater is pumped from the well to our 80,000-gallon water tank located at the top of Fred Lane. 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 July 2022. All our samples are in compliance with the 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	7/26/22	0.006	Ppm	.015	Household plumbing
Copper	7/26/22	0.389	Ppm	1.3	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 – (**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.

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 - (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.

Pico curies per liter (**pCi/L**)-Pico curies per liter are a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Sunset West water system monitors for contaminants 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, 2022. For contaminants that are not monitored yearly, the table below has the most recent data per DEQ/EPA required monitoring.

#### CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate/Nitrite	N	8/22/2023	1.35	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	3/22/21	0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	3/22/21	0.21	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	N	3/22/21	1.8	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Coliform Bacteria (TCR)	N	9/18/2023	1 monthly sample	----	0	1	Naturally present in the environment

#### 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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#### Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Assessments

During the past year we were required to conduct Assessment(s)	Number of assessments required in the reporting year	Number of assessments completed in the reporting year	Number of corrective actions required.	Number of corrective actions completed.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
Level 1	0	0	0	0	
Level 2	1	1	0	0	The assessment concluded there was no issue or event evident in causing these positive coliform samples. However, it recommended that the system may benefit from shock chlorinating the storage tank once or twice annually.

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.

**Coliform Bacteria** – Naturally present in the environment.

**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 water that 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** - 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** – Increased risk of cancer and kidney problems.,

**Fluoride** - Some people who drink water that contains fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

**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're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Greg Evison at 406.3969453 or [gevison@missoulacounty.us](mailto:gevison@missoulacounty.us)