Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID #MT0000057
SADDLE MOUNTAIN SERVICE CORPORATION
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Potable water is one of the most vital services provided to community residents. All of us depend on water for drinking, cooking, washing, carrying away wastes, and other domestic needs. For the most part, we don't think about how drinking water gets to our homes or where that water comes from. We just want to be sure that our water is safe and keeps flowing to our taps.

The goal of Saddle Mountain Service Corporation is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Because of our commitment to ensuring the quality of your drinking water, we want to keep you informed about the activities and testing we do to assure that your water is safe. We are pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mark Zitzka at 461-8700. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our scheduled meetings. They are generally held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room the Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, on Mission Mountain Rd. Please call to confirm meeting dates and times.

WATER SOURCE

The community relies on ground water for its water supply. Three wells are located in a well field along the south bank of Prickly Pear Creek, in sections 13 and 14, of Township 9 North, Range 3 West. The new well is located approximately 1000 feet southwest of the existing well field, is 250 feet deep and completed in a Devonian age limestone unit known as the Jefferson Formation

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A Source Water Assessment was performed in 2001. Saddle Mountain Services Corporation has identified significant potential contaminant sources within the spill response region. A Susceptibility Assessment was conducted and our susceptibility to potential contaminant sources is summarized in the table below. The State website to view the full Source Water Assessment is:
https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw#accordion1-collapse2

Inventory of Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Expanded Inventory Region

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
US Interstate 15	Various Chemicals	Spill	High	Emergency Response Plan	High	Develop Emergency Response Plan
Septic Systems	Nitrates and Pathogens	Nitrates and Pathogens	Moderate to High	Prickly Pear Creek, distance upstream, and dilution	Moderate	DEQ regulates subdivisions & monitoring water quality.
Abandoned and Active Mine Sites	Mine waste drainage	Waste drainage	Low	Small or closed sites and bedrock	Low	Monitor new mining activities in the watershed, and participate in public meetings

Recharge Region and the Surface Water Buffer Region

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
Septic Systems for subdivisions	Nitrates and Pathogens	Nitrates and Pathogens	Moderate to High	Prickly Pear Creek Between 2 and 10 miles up-stream from the well field.	Moderate to Low	DEQ regulates subdivision development and continued monitoring
Sewage Treatment Facility - Evergreen Rest Home	Nitrates and Pathogens	Nitrates and Pathogens	Moderate	Approx. 3.5 miles from wells and in compliance with State Regulations	Low	Monitored and in Compliance with State Regulations
MDT Jefferson City Rest Areas	Nitrates and Pathogens	Nitrates and Pathogens	Low	Approximately 7 miles from well heads	Low to Moderate	Monitored and in Compliance with State Regulations

MONITORING

Saddle Mountain Service Corporation routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. The State of Montana requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some data in the tables, though representative, may be more than one year old. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and State regulations. The table includes the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2022**.

In the following information, you may find terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

ppm (Parts per million): one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
ppb (Parts per billion): one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
MFL (Million Fibers per Liter): The measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
pCi/L (Picocuries per liter): A measure of the radioactivity in water.
N/A: Not applicable.
MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest allowable amount of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): Non-mandatory water quality standards established as health advisory limits.
MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a 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 contamination.
MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.
TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
90th Percentile Value: The concentration of lead or copper in tap water exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period.
Waivers: Reduction or exclusion of monitoring requirements for certain compounds. Waivers are granted by the State of Montana, based on a water system's previous monitoring history.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Result	Units	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	N	2022	Highest result = 0.3 Range of levels detected = 0.2 – 0.3	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	01/03/2022	3.82	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	01/03/2020	2	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	N	01/03/2020	0.069	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	01/03/2020	2	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	01/03/2020	0.361	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Selenium	N	01/03/2020	1	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Copper	N	08/06/2020	90th percentile value 0.36	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	08/06/2020	90th percentile value 2	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N **Y**	08/06/2019 2022	1.52 No Monitoring	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N **Y**	08/06/2019 2022	3.93 No Monitoring	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	N	06/09/2019	2.8	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	06/09/2019	8	ppb	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron	N	03/31/2023	0.65	ppm	N/A	SMCL = 0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	N	03/31/2022	0.047	ppm	N/A	SMCL = 0.050	Naturally-occurring element

Bacteriological Monitoring –We monitor our water supply for total coliform and E. coli bacteria monthly. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, we always perform special follow-up tests to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. Our monitoring for **2022**, found no presence of coliform bacteria in our water system.

Chlorine – Chlorine is a water additive used to control microbes. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. We are required to monitor and record chlorine residuals daily to assure the water being served is continually treated to make sure it is safe. All sampling for **2022** met the requirements.

Nitrate – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you may wish to ask advice from your health care provider. In **2022** testing, Nitrate was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Inorganic Compounds (IOCs) – The following compounds were tested in **2020**. The heavy metals Antimony, Beryllium, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel, and Thallium were not detected in our water system. Barium, Chromium, Fluoride, and Selenium were detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA. We have a waiver for testing Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Fluoride, Mercury, and Selenium in effect through **2028**.

Arsenic in Drinking Water – The US EPA has revised the regulations governing the amount of arsenic allowable in public drinking water supplies. Beginning January 23, 2006, the MCL for arsenic is 10 ppb and the MCLG is 0 ppb. In **2020** testing, Arsenic was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Lead and Copper – **Lead:** 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. *Saddle Mountain Service Co.* 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. **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. In **2020** testing, Lead and Copper were detected in our water system but below the Action Levels set by the EPA.

Iron is not a regulated contaminant and is not hazardous to health, but it is considered a secondary or aesthetic contaminant. Dissolved ferrous iron gives water a disagreeable metallic taste, and iron minerals in water can leave reddish brown stains on fixtures, tableware and laundry that hare very hard to remove. Essential for good health, iron helps transport oxygen in the blood. Most tap water in the United States supplies approximately 5 percent of the dietary requirement for iron. We tested for Iron in **2022**, and it is present in our water supply.

Manganese not currently a regulated contaminant and is a naturally occurring element that can be found ubiquitously in the air, soil, and water. Manganese is an essential nutrient for humans and animals at low doses, but chronic exposure to high doses may be harmful. The health effects from over-exposure of manganese are dependent on the route of exposure, the chemical form, the age at exposure, and an individual's nutritional status. Regardless, the nervous system has been determined to be the primary target organ with neurological effects generally observed. See EPA's "Drinking Water Health Advisory for Manganese" document EPA-822-R-04-003 for more information. We tested for Manganese in **2022**, and it is present in our water supply.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – VOCs are petroleum byproducts, including fuels such as gasoline and diesel; lighter fluid; fuel additives; solvents such as benzene and toluene; cleaning compounds such as dry-cleaning solution, degreasers, refrigerants and adhesives. The EPA regulates the concentration of certain VOCs in drinking water, while the EPA and the State monitor for the presence of other VOCs in drinking water. VOCs were tested for in **2020.** Some compounds resulting from the water disinfection process were detected; these are regulated under the trihalomethanes (THM) analysis. Over 60 additional organic compounds were tested, and none were detected in our water system.

Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) – SOCs encompass a wide range of organic compounds, including pesticides and

herbicides used for crops and lawns; wood preservatives; PCBs from electrical transformers; and byproducts from PVC and other plastics, including phthalates and adipates. SOCs may be released during manufacturing processes, runoff from fields where herbicides or pesticides have been used, and disposal of industrial wastes. Nearly 40 different compounds were tested in **2020**, and none was detected in our water system.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) are a group of four chlorine and bromine-containing compounds that are formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. EPA regulates these compounds because they may be harmful to health at certain levels. In **2019**, we tested for TTHMs, and our water is considered safe at the levels detected. In **2022**, we received a violation for failing to test for TTHMs; this violation is outstanding.

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) are a group of chemicals that are formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. EPA regulates these compounds because they may be harmful to health at certain levels. In **2019**, we tested for HAA5s, and our water is considered safe at the levels detected. In **2022**, we received a violation for failing to test for HAA5s; this violation is outstanding.

Radionuclides – Alpha emitters are certain minerals which are radioactive, and which may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Radium 226 and Radium 228 are naturally occurring radioactive contaminants that occur primarily in ground water. In **2019**, our water system was tested for combined Radium 226+228 and none was detection. Gross Alpha (excluding radon and uranium) was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Uranium is a naturally occurring element found at low levels in virtually all rock, soil, and water. Significant concentrations of uranium occur in some substances such as phosphate rock deposits, and minerals such as uraninite in uranium-rich ores. Uranium can enter the body when it is inhaled or swallowed in water or food. In **2019** testing, Uranium was detected in our water system but in concentrations less than the Maximum Contamination Level set by the EPA.

Asbestos is a broad term that applies to numerous fibrous mineral silicates composed of silicon, oxygen, hydrogen, and metal cations such as sodium, magnesium, calcium, or iron. There are two major groups of asbestos, serpentine (chrysotile) and amphibole. Chrysotile is the major type of asbestos used in the manufacture of asbestos products. These products include asbestos cement pipe, flooring products, paper products (e.g., padding), friction materials (e.g., brake linings and clutch facings), roofing products, and coating and patching compounds. Asbestos fibers may enter the environment from natural sources such as erosion of asbestos-containing ores, but the primary source of asbestos in the environment is through the wear or breakdown of asbestos-containing materials. We monitored for asbestos in **2020**, and no asbestos fibers were detected. We have a waiver for monitoring for asbestos in effect through **2028**.

INTERPRETATION

We received a monitoring violation in 2022 for failing to monitor for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) during the Aug 2020 - Aug 2022 monitoring period. Because of this failure we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. This violation is outstanding, and we will work to correct it in the following monitoring period. We are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We continually monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Some constituents have been detected in our water, as described above. Although some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE** at these levels. If you would like more information about these contaminants, you may contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. We at Saddle Mountain Service Corporation work 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.

About Drinking Water….

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 in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 byproducts 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 mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 the water poses a health risk. 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.

MCLs 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.

Did you know…?

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).

Prepared by the Department of Public Health and Human Services Environmental Laboratory (406) 444-2642

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for

Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2022 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for disinfection byproducts and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?
There is nothing you need to do at this time.

What happened?
The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for during the last year, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	When samples should have been taken	When samples will be taken
Disinfection Byproducts including Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) [1]	One routine sample every three years	July 1 through September 30, 2022	

[1]People who drink water containing **Disinfection Byproducts (HAA5s and TTHMs)** in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have increased risk of getting cancer. People at increased risk include those with compromised immune systems, infants, elderly or pregnant women.

The previous test results for was well below the maximum; HAA5 was 1.52 and TTHMs was 3.93 parts per billion (ppb), and the maximum contaminant level is 60 ppb.

What is being done?

Both operators are monitoring the calendar to take these samples within the time line listed above. The State is updating it's notification software to give the reminders that failed to come out last year.

For more information, please contact:

Name: Tom Hillesland or Mark Zitska Email Address: saddlemountainpresident@gmail.com

or by phone at: Tom at 406-696-4272.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by **Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy MT0000057**.
Date and Method Distributed: Attached to the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (CCR).