

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Buffalo

2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water 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. We purchase treated groundwater from Cass Rural Water Users, Inc. (Phase III).

Cass Rural Water District (Phase III) & the city of Buffalo are participating in North Dakota's Wellhead Protection Program. This plan can be obtained from Cass Rural Water Users District office by calling 701-428-3139. The North Dakota Department of Health has prepared a Source Water Assessment for the city of Buffalo and Cass Rural Water Users District (Phase III). Information regarding this program is available upon request.

Cass Rural Water Users District (Phase III), in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Health has determined that our source water is "*not likely susceptible*" to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Harmony Richman, auditor, at 701- 633-2356. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month, unless otherwise published, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Community Center office. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Harmony at the number listed above.

The City of Buffalo would appreciate it if large volume water customers would please post copies of the year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report* in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill, can learn about our water system.

The City of Buffalo routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020. As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for organic or inorganic contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

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 effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 stormwater 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, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the table on page 3, 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:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant 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.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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 (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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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 contaminants.

TEST RESULTS FOR CASS RURAL WATER DISTRICT – PHASE III

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Date (year)</u>	<u>Violation Yes/No Other Info</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Radioactive Contaminants								
GROSS ALPHA, INCLDNG RA, EXCLDNG RN & U	15	15	1.68	pCi/l		2017		Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, Combined (226, 228)		5	0.11	pCi/l		2017		Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium, Combined		30	1.96	ppb		2017		Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	2	2	0.0377	ppm	N/A	2018		Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100	100	3.33	ppb	N/A	2018		Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	4	4	0.846	ppm	N/A	2018		Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

TEST RESULTS FOR THE CITY OF BUFFALO

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>Unit Measurement</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Date (year)</u>	<u>Violation Yes/No Other Info</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Inorganic Contaminants								
1. Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.665 90 th % Value	ppm	N/A	2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
2. Lead	0	AL=15	1.39 90 th % Value	ppb	N/A	2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	0	10	5.14	ppb	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts								
HAA5	N/A	60	5	ppb	N/A	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM	N/A	80	15	ppb	N/A	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Disinfectants								
Chlorine	MRD L=4	MRDL G=4	0.6	ppm	0.37-0.86	2020	No	Water additive used to control Microbes

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population.

It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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

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 (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Buffalo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 drinking 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>.

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.

Tampering with a public water system is a federal offense; please report suspicious activity to local law enforcement immediately.

Please call our office at (701) 633-2356 if you have questions.

The City of Buffalo works diligently 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.