

# Annual

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# Water Quality Report

## 2017 Water Testing Period



# South Lapwai Community Water System

PWS # 101600003

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791). 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Domestic water for the tribal communities of Over the Hill, Sundown and Sweetwater Tribal communities is currently supplied from 2 groundwater wells, located near Over the Hill subdivision. There are two storage tanks, one 250,000 gallon in Sundown heights and one 50,000 gallon tank between Sundown heights and the Over the hill Communities

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

For details about the Source Water Assessment, Please contact Jessica Danaszck at Water Resources Division 208-843-7368.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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:

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; and 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

### **How can I get involved?**

If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility, or to arrange a meeting with the Utility Board, please contact Water Resources (208)843-7368, operator Roberto Lopez (208)717-8213. Additional water quality information may be obtained from:

Environmental Protection Agency - Safe Drinking Water Hotline - 1-800-426-4791 or their web site [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

American Water Works Association website [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

### **Contaminants That Could Be In Water**

#### **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. South Lapwai Tribal Water System 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>.

## **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 should ask for advice from your health care provider. 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 should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water.

Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water – efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to a 1000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilets for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to a 1000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Source water Protection tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways.

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants allowed in public water systems. The table below lists all the contaminants that had detection amounts in your water for the calendar year of 2017. Although many more were tested, only those listed below were found in detectable amounts in your water.

<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCLG Or MRDLG</b>	<b>MCL, TT, or MRDL AL</b>	<b>Detect in your water</b>	<b>Range  Low High</b>	<b>Sample date</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>
<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
<b>Copper</b>	<b>1.3ppm</b>	<b>1.3pp m</b>	<b>0.15ppm</b>	<b>0 – 0.15</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.</b>
<b>Chlorine</b>	<b>4ppm</b>	<b>4ppm</b>	<b>0.30ppm</b>	<b>0.20 – 0.30</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Water additive used to control microbes.</b>
<b>Haloacetic Acids</b>	<b>No goal</b>	<b>60 ppb</b>	<b>1.14ppb</b>	<b>0 – 1.14</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>By- product of drinking water disinfection.</b>
<b>Total Trihalomethanes  TTHM</b>	<b>No goal for the total</b>	<b>80ppb</b>	<b>3.02ppb</b>	<b>0 – 3.02</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>By-product of drinking water disinfection.</b>

<b>Barium</b>	<b>2ppm</b>	<b>2ppm</b>	<b>0.00408ppm</b>	<b>0 – 0.00408</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.</b>
<b>Chromium</b>	<b>100ppb</b>	<b>100ppb</b>	<b>1.21ppb</b>	<b>0 – 1.21</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.</b>
<b>Fluoride</b>	<b>4ppm</b>	<b>4ppm</b>	<b>0.332ppm</b>	<b>0 – 0.332</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Erosion of natural deposits</b>
<b>Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)</b>	<b>10ppm</b>	<b>10ppm</b>	<b>1.53ppm</b>	<b>1.53 - 2</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.</b>
<b>Gross alpha excluding Radon and Uranium</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15 pCi/L</b>	<b>1.13 pCi/L</b>	<b>0 – 1.13</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Erosion of natural deposits</b>

## Violations

### Consumer Confidence Rule

The Consumer Confidence Rule requires the water delivered by the community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of systems.



Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR ADEQUACY/AVAILABILITY/CONTENT	10/01/2017	11/06/2017	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or microgram per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
ppm	Parts per million or mg/L

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of Contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a Contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL	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.
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**For more information please contact:**

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