



Email to: deqccr@mt.gov

* Save to Desktop OR use Internet Explorer

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form

Water System Name: Bigfork District Water & Sewer

Water System ID Number: MT 0000262 CCR Year: 2021

You need to complete the following:

1. Mail or otherwise directly deliver a copy of Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to water system customers by June 30. Keep a copy for your records.
2. Email or mail a copy of CCR to DEQ by June 30.
3. Complete and submit this Certification Form to DEQ by September 30. It is recommended that you email the CCR and Certification Form to DEQ at the same time to ensure that all actions are completed on time.

Please Submit To: deqccr@mt.gov

CCR was distributed to water system customers by (Check all that apply):

- Mail Delivery**
- Hand Delivery**
- Electronic Delivery (via Email, not social media)**
- Publish in Newspaper**
- Post in Public Location / Available Upon Request**

- Tier 3 Public Notice Included in CCR**

The community water system named above hereby confirms that its Consumer Confidence Report has been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the state agency.

Certified by (Name): *Julie Spencer* Date: 5/18/2022
 Title: District Manager Phone #: 406-837-4566

CCR Rule Manager: Megan Falk
 DEQ PWS Bureau
 P.O. Box 200901
 Helena, MT 59620-0901
 Fax: 406-444-1374 Phone: 406-444-3425

BIGFORK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Montana Public Water Supply ID number 00262

2021 Water Quality Report

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day; we're pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water provided last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water comes from four 300 feet deep wells. At the end of 2021, we had 1389 residential/commercial 17 fire sprinklers and 58 irrigation, the total service connections are 1464.

Bigfork Water & Sewer provides water to a shared tank in the Ranch subdivision. Because they own and operate a community water supply with their own wells that also supply water to the shared tank, Ranch County Water is considered by the Montana DEQ and the Federal EPA to be a consecutive connection. What this means to the customer, is that the potential exists for water from one system to be transmitted to the other through a shared line. Customers wishing to review the CCR for the Ranch District are encouraged to contact Board Member Gerry Southwood to request this literature. The DEQ website lists water quality issues for that district as well as all other public water supplies in the state of Montana on the *Safe Drinking Water Watch* site at <http://sdwisdww.mt.gov:8080/DWW/index.jsp>. Bigfork Water & Sewer provides water to the Bigfork Motor Coach which is also considered by the Montana DEQ and the Federal EPA to be a consecutive connection. The Public Water Supply (PWS) number for Bigfork is MT0000262; and for Ranch is MT0003076; and for Bigfork Motor Coach is MT0005012.

We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at TBA in the District Office at 108 Harbor Heights Boulevard.

Bigfork has four fully certified drinking water operators. Operator certification requires ongoing training to assure stringent water quality standards are maintained. The District Manager is Julie Spencer who has been with the district for 22 years and has been a certified water operator for 21 years. In Operations Sergio Lopez, John Inabnit and Bob Hand have been with the district for 6 years and have been certified water operators for 5 years, Tyler Hantz, who has been with the District for 3 years.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Julie Spencer at (406) 837-4566.

DID YOU KNOW? The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive elements. Water can also pick-up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2) 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, and farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, but can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We take all our water samples to Montana Environmental Laboratory in Kalispell (406)755-2131. They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations.

In the past, due to the high quality of our water supply, the DEQ has issued a monitoring waiver for 10 inorganic contaminants. This waiver allows our system to sample only once every nine years for these contaminants. Past sampling has shown that these contaminants are either not present in our water or occur in such small amounts that they do not warrant a health hazard. In 2021, the District tests for these contaminants showed none present.

In May of 2019, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality inspected our water system during the tri-annual Sanitary Survey. Our system passed inspection with no deficiencies.

During the first quarter of 2021 the District was required to perform additional source water tests due to a coliform positive sample at the Bigfork Motor Coach. The presence of coliforms required the District to determine that the source of the positive test was not at the District wells. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Usually, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. ***We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.***

During the second quarter of 2021 the District was required to perform additional testing due to a coliform positive hit collected at Bigfork Water & Sewer Lab testing site. The presence of coliforms required the District to determine that the source of the positive test was at the District testing site wells. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Usually, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. ***We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.***

During the third quarter of 2021 the District was required to perform additional source water tests due to a coliform positive sample at the Ranch Water & Sewer District. The presence of coliforms required the District to determine that the source of the positive test was not at the District wells. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Usually, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. ***We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.***

The following tests were performed to identify possible contaminants in our system during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021:

- 52 Total Coliform bacteria tests 3 contained coliforms, 49 showed no contamination.
- 52 E-Coli bacteria tests – none were present.

Additionally, samples were tested for the following contaminants and *all results were within EPA guidelines:*

- 1 Nitrate plus Nitrite test.
- 1 Asbestos
- Arsenic
- SOC
- VOC
- IOC-Phase 2-5 for waiver

The following table lists the contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of the data in this table may be more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year.

**REGULATED CONTAMINANTS
EP 503 – CURRENT WELLS**

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT of MEASURE	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters EP503	N	06/12/2018	0.9 +/- 1.2	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 EP503	N	06/12/2018	0.5 +/- 0.7	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium EP 503	N	08/05/20	0.29	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride EP 503	N	08/05/20	0.06	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sulphate	N	8/5/2020	2.1	ppm	500	500	Can be naturally occurring or the result of municipal or industrial discharges.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	N	06/08/21	0.31	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

**LEAD AND COPPER
SAMPLED FROM 10 HOUSEHOLD TAPS**

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	#SITES OVER AL	SAMPLE DATE	90 th %	UNIT of MEASURE	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper	N	0	08/24/20	0.08	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of Household plumbing systems
Lead	N	0	08/04/20	0.002	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of Household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" 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.

PPM - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

AL - Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Pci/L - Pico Curies per Liter - a very small unit of measurement of radioactivity.

What does this table tell us?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring, or manmade. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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, or online at water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm.

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by a certified laboratory like the one we send our samples to (Montana Environmental Laboratory, 406-755-2131). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/.

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, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater. You can find out more about our system and the specific contaminants we have tested for, on the web at DEQ's *Safe Drinking Water Watch* site <http://sdwisdww.mt.gov:8080/DWW/index.jsp>

In 2020, the District with the help of Montana Rural Water System reviewed and updated the 2005 Montana Department of Environmental Quality's source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report