

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report ***East Central Regional Water District – GF*** **2023**

We are 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. East Central Regional WD - GF utilizes the Elk Valley Aquifer, drawn from 18 drilled wells. East Central Regional WD - GF wells are located near the City of Larimore.

East Central Regional WD-GF is participating in the North Dakota Wellhead Protection Program. Relevant information on the Wellhead Protection plan is available during normal business hours at our Thompson office. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has prepared a Source Water Assessment for East Central Regional WD - GF. Information on these programs is available to the public during normal business hours at the above listed water system. Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 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 Environmental Quality has determined that our source water is "moderately susceptible" to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

East Central Regional WD - GF is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Neil Breidenbach, manager of East Central Regional WD - GF, at (701) 599-2963. 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 Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the water office at Thompson. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Neil at the number listed above.

East Central Regional WD - GF would appreciate it if large volume water customers would please post copies of the 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.

East Central Regional WD - GF routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. 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 radioactive contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

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, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater 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 that 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:

Not Applicable- (N/A)

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.

2023 TEST RESULTS FOR EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL WD-GF

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</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. Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	0.298	ppm	N/A	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants								
2. Chlorine	MRD L=4.0	MRDLG =4	0.8	ppm	0.7 to 0.89	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (TTHM/HAA5)								
3. Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	System -Wide	60	No Detect	ppb	N/A	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
4. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	System -Wide	80	3	ppb	N/A	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Lead/Copper								
	# samples	Action Level	90 th percentile					
5. Copper	20	AL=1.3	0.213	ppm	N/A	2023	No*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
6. Lead	20	AL=15	No Detect	ppb	N/A	2023	No*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

* No sites exceeded the copper or lead action levels in 2023.

Once every five years EPA issues a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The East Central Rural Water District – Grand Forks was selected by EPA to sample for thirty (30) unregulated contaminants during 2023. Samples were collected two times at the entry point to the distribution system, as required.

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. Should you have any questions, please contact our office. None of the 30 contaminants included in this round of sampling were detected.

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.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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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 (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. East Central Regional Water District 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>.

Please call Neil Breidenbach, Manager of East Central Regional WD - GF at (701) 599-2963 if you have questions concerning your drinking water.

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