# *2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

For The

## Seeley Lake Water District

P.O. Box 503, Seeley Lake, MT. 59868

(406) 677-2559

https://www.seeleylakewaterdistrict.org

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the **quality of the water** and services we deliver to you every day. **Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable 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.** Our water source is Seeley Lake.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Vincent Chappell at 406 677-2559 or 406 210-3760.** We want you, 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 at 5:30 pm on the last Thursday of each month, at the Water District facility on Rice Ridge Road. The current elected members of the Water Board are as follows:

Charlie Hahn - President
Todd Johnson - Vice President
Kris Martin - Director
Chris Lorentz - Director
Freda Rathbun - Director

If you have questions about the Water District, any one of the Board members, Vincent Chappell, our manager, or our employees will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can answer them for you.

**Seeley Lake Water District** routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water, following all Federal and State laws. The table on the following page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024.

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. The source water assessment report for your water system provides additional information on your source water's susceptibility to contamination. To access this report please go to: https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw#accordion1-collapse2

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some of our data in the tables is more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. **Our sampling complies with EPA and Montana State drinking water regulations.**

## TEST RESULTS

| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Sample Date | Highest Level Detected | Range Detected | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Turbidity** | | | | | | | | |
| Turbidity | N | Daily | 0.124 | 0.027-0.124 | NTU | 1.0 | 0.3 NTU | Soil runoff |
| Chlorine | N | Daily | 1.24ppm | 0.02-1.24 | PPM | 4.0 | 4.0 PPM | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| **Radioactive Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Combined radium 226/228 | N | 9/28/20 | 1.9 | 1.9-1.9 | pCi/1 | 0 | 5 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Asbestos in water | N | 10/16/24 | ND | 0 | MFL | 7 | 7 | Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride | N | 9/28/20 | 0.03 | 0.03-0.03 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | N | 9/18/24 | ND mg/l | 0 .02 mg/l | ppm | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Disinfection By-Products** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sample Date** | **Highest Level Detected** | **Range Detected** | **Unit Measurement** | **MCLG** | **MCL** | **Likely Source of Contamination** |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | N | 9/06/24 | 31 | 0-3.9 | ppb | <60 | 60 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | N | 9/06/24 | 36 | 0-17 | ppb | <80 | 80 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Lead and Copper** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sample Date** | **MCLG** | **Action Level (AL)** | **90th Percentile** | **Sites Over AL** | **Units** | **Likely Source of Contamination** |
| 14. Copper | N | 9/19/23 | 0.23 mg/l | AL = 1.3 | 1.17 | 0 | ppm | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| 17. Lead | N | 9/19/23 | ND | AL = 15 | 0.001 | 0 | ppb | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations that you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Lead and Copper Definitions:

**Action Level Goal – The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known ox expected health risk. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Definitions:**

**Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*Total Organic Carbon (TOC) – The percentage of TOC removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a violation is noted in the violation section.

***Turbidity:* The specified limit for our treatment process is 0.3 NTU's. Each month 95% of our measurements must be below this specified limit. This number represents the month with the lowest percentage of a sample meeting this limit. Our water system has met this requirement 100% of the time. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

***Haloacetic Acids:* Total Haloacetic Acid is a by-product from our disinfection chlorine reacting with the natural organics in the water

that we treat.
*Avg – Regulatory compliance with some MCL's is based on a running annual average of monthly samples.
*Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if Possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
*Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
*Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL- The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.
*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or MRDLG -The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known expected health risk. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
*Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
*mrem – millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
*ppb – micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
*ppm – milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
*ND – no detect
**MFL - Million Fibers per Liter* - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Note: Asbestos** - Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

**Note: 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. The Seeley Lake Water District 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 the steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. . **At this time, we have no test sites that are in violation for lead.**

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 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 activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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.

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 for 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 microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

# The Seeley Lake Water District wants you to know that your drinking water is safe to drink and we will continue to work hard to keep it that way!

The Water District is doing everything that we can to protect our water system for you the customer, to ensure safe, clean drinking water. If you, the customer, see anyone or know of anyone tampering with equipment, valves, fire hydrants, buildings, or unlawfully using water or equipment please contact us at 406 677-2559, or contact 911, so that we can deter any damage or potential contamination of our water system.

This next summer we will be performing more leak detection. This last year we found 10 different leaks on the distribution system. Most of the leaks were on customer service lines. We are trying to make sure that we are doing everything in our power to operate efficiently and to make sure that our system is operating at its best. If you see our crew out by the street in front of your house it is because we are operating valves and listening for leaks. If we find an issue, we will discuss it with you. If you have any questions, please don't be afraid to come and talk to us.

One of the new requirements from EPA was an LSL inventory. (Lead Service Line Inventory) In other communities throughout the nation, water systems had to use lead pipe for water service lines. This was a practice in the early 1900's. Luckily for the Seeley Lake Water District we never used lead lines. However, we still had to do an inventory list of every service in town and show what type of pipes were used. We have that inventory list at the Water District office available for review. If you would like to come to the office, please call ahead of time to make sure someone will be here to help you.

Over the last couple years, we have been updating our water meter hardware. We received grants from Missoula County which paid for a new meter reading antenna system. This new technology takes readings of every water meter every day and sends it to our office. This is beneficial to watch for leaks and burst pipes in the system. We have already found quite a few leaks with the system and we were able to inform the customers immediately. In the past, this process could take almost a month. The technology is awesome and very helpful. We can also look up your history of usage for you if you need. Please contact our office if you have any questions in regards to your usage.

The Water District is trying to make it easier for all customers to receive information with regards to the district. We utilize our website to distribute information. We also have an online bill pay section on our website. The link to the web site is https://www.seeleylakewaterdistrict.org

We encourage anyone who is interested to stop by and take a tour of our water plant, so that you can see and understand what we do. If you would like to tour the water plant, please call ahead to allow us to set aside some time for the tour. If there is anything that we can do to serve you better please give me, Vincent Chappell, a call at 406 677-2559 or in the case of an emergency call 406 210-3760.

**We at the Seeley Lake Water District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water source, Seeley Lake, which is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.**

Every year we evaluate our income & expenses and then formulate the yearly budget accordingly. A financial review will be performed annually to verify those numbers. JCCS reviewed the Water District financials for January - December 2024.

This Annual Quality Water Report **will be posted on our website and at the library for all** water customers to review. A copy of this report is available by calling or stopping by the Seeley Lake Water District.