

CABINET MOUNTAINS WATER DIST

PWS # ID1110042

Report on Quality of Drinking Water in 2011

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires that all community drinking water systems must provide customers an annual report of the quality of their drinking water. This report is a summary of the quality of Cabinet Mountains Water District water for calendar year 2011. Included are details about where the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA and Idaho standards. All Cabinet Mountains Water District facilities are operated under the direction of the Board of Directors. Correspondence should be addressed to: Cabinet Mountain's Water District, P. O. Box 1223, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.

Our Water Association board meets regularly throughout the year. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm, at 7193 Main Street

Your water is provided by a **ground water** source located by the Kootenai River.

Last year, we conducted tests for bacteria, and nitrates. We had detects of some contaminants, which are listed in the tables on page three.

Definitions and abbreviations used are listed below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expect risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of 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 contamination.

- **n/a:** not applicable

- **nd:** not detectable at testing limit.

- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter.

- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

- **TT: Treatment Technique**

- **AL: Action Level**

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 and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>.

The sources of all drinking water, not just ours, (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.

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 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 and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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.

Water Quality Monitoring has been conducted on a regular basis in compliance with all Federal, State, and Local monitoring requirements.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) maintains a waiver program for Inorganic Chemical (IOC), Volatile Organic (VOC), and Synthetic Organic (SOC) compounds monitoring. These waivers help reduce some of the financial burden placed on public water suppliers by testing which would normally be required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The DEQ has performed numerous risk analyses to determine the potential for various chemical contaminants to

be present in Idaho. The DEQ office has determined that few of these chemicals pose a risk of being present in drinking water sources in the northern region of the state and that waivers would be appropriate.

Lead Informational Statement (Health effects and ways to reduce exposure)

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. **Cabinet Mountains 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 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>.

The Idaho DEQ completed the source water assessment for Cabinet Mountains Water District in February 2003. A source water protection plan is not available. For additional information or a copy of the Source Water Assessment Report, please contact Marlaina Davy at (208) 267-3616.