



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Malmstrom Air Force Base Public Water System ID: MT0000515

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report please contact 1st Lieutenant Alfred Borbe (Bioenvironmental Engineer) 406-731-1580.

Sources of Drinking Water

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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/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 (800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Information for Malmstrom Air Force Base

which is classified as a *Surface Water Purchaser* system

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-sourcewater>

On the webpage scroll down and look under the subtitle "Montana Source Water Protection Viewer" and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called "Source Water Reports" at the top.

Malmstrom Air Force Base utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
CONSECUTIVE CONNECTION FROM MT0000525	Consecutive Connection

Malmstrom AFB, Public Water System MT0000515, is "consecutive" to the city of Great Falls drinking water distribution system. The Great Falls Water Treatment Plant supplies drinking water to Malmstrom AFB after filtering and disinfecting surface water from the Missouri River.

Please see the City of Great Falls Public Drinking Water Supply CCR (attached) for more information on the quality of finished drinking water supplied to Malmstrom AFB. In addition, the Great Falls CCR contains information on the source water assessment and its availability. The Great Falls CCR is available on the Malmstrom AFB website at www.malmstrom.af.mil and the City of Great Falls website at www.greatfallsmt.gov.

Water Quality Test Results Definitions

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

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

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an 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 highest level of 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 or MCLG: 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 or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Measure of the radioactivity in water.

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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): SMCLs are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

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

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08-16-2024	1.3	1.3	0.56	1	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Coliform Bacteria						
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No of Positive E Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	1	--	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Regulated Contaminants								
Contaminant Group: Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products								
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2025	0.10	0.08 - 0.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
The chlorine highest level detected reflects the highest running annual average calculated each month during the CCR year. The range is the min/max of the monthly average during the CCR year.								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	29	12 - 43	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	40	27 - 45	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

As part of the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act our water system sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. as part of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard in the future. In 2023 we conducted testing for the UCMR5 (5 denoting the fifth monitoring event) on the finished drinking water. The targeted, unregulated contaminants for that round were lithium (Li) and 29 different PFAS compounds.

PFAS is short for perfluoroalkyl- and polyfluoroalkyl- substances. These synthetic compounds are also known as forever chemicals because they do not easily break down under normal environmental conditions. PFAS are very common and found in everyday things such as non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing and shoes, outdoor equipment, tarps, food packaging, and dental floss. The health impacts of PFAS are still being investigated but it is suspected that they may cause some forms of cancer. Most of what is known about the health effects of lithium is related to its use as a pharmaceutical drug. Very little is known about how the intake of lithium from food and water may affect health.

UCMR 5				
Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lithium (ug/L)	Not Specified	0	48-68	Erosion of natural contaminants
Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
PFAS (ppb)	0.002 – 0.02	0	ND	Synthetic chemicals used in manufacturing and processing facilities, firefighting foams, and various household products.

As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, results can also be found by visiting the EPA's UCMR 5 Data Finder website:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires drinking water utilities to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The purpose of the CCR is to help people understand and make informed decisions about their drinking water. The CCR describes where the drinking water comes from, how it is treated, summarizes the quality of the drinking water and compares it to the standards for drinking water quality set by the EPA.

Where does the drinking water come from?

The water treated at the Great Falls Water Treatment Plant comes from the Missouri River just south of its confluence with the Sun River. It is classified as a surface water source.

As water travels over land or through the ground, it can dissolve an array of salts and minerals and can collect nutrients from animal and human activities. In some locations it can even pick up radioactive material. It is for this reason that all drinking water, including bottled water, is expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Oftentimes the most common issues associated with contaminants in the water are the taste, color, and odor. While undesirable, those characteristics do not necessarily pose any danger to consumers.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than others. Immunocompromised people, such as people undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for waterborne infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.



Common Contaminants and possible sources:

Microbial Contaminants:

Viruses, bacteria and other microbes can come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants:

Salts and metals can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Organic Contaminants:

Substances including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals can be the by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, but they may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants:

Radioactive substances can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Pesticides and Herbicides:

These substances result from a variety of sources like agricultural, and urban and residential stormwater runoff.

EPA and CDC guidelines on ways to reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

THE TREATMENT PROCESS

The City of Great Falls employs a conventional treatment process.

Coagulation and Flocculation: Water from the Missouri River is pumped to the plant where it is mixed with chlorine, alum (an aluminum sulfate solution) and polymer. Chlorine provides disinfection and the alum and polymer help facilitate the coagulation and flocculation process. Coagulation and flocculation is a process that causes the fine particulate and dissolved contaminants to be pulled from solution and bound together to form larger, heavier particulate called floc. The larger size and weight of the floc make it settle more readily in the next step of the process.

Sedimentation: In this step the water moves into large, open basins. This slows the movement of the water and allows the large floc particles and heavier sediment to settle and collect at the bottom of the basins.

Mixed Media Filtration: From the settling basins, the water makes its way through flumes and into dual media filters. At the plant 16 dual media filters are used to collect any fine particulate and floating matter that may have made it through the previous steps. The filters are made up of a layer of anthracite (coal) and a layer of fine sand.

UV Disinfection: Ultraviolet disinfection (UV disinfection) follows filtration. The water flows through four-foot diameter pipes outfitted with five rows of 12 UV lights. Any bacteria or viruses that may still be present in the water are sterilized by the UV light and no longer pose a danger to humans and animals. This step is especially effective at treating organisms such as Cryptosporidium, which are very hardy and can survive the chlorination process.

Chloramination: Lastly, an ammonia solution is added to the drinking water to react with the available chlorine to form chloramines. Chloramine is a more stable compound than chlorine and will remain in the water solution much longer than chlorine. This ensures that the drinking water retains its disinfection properties as it travels from the treatment plant to the consumers. Another advantage to chloramination is that it does not impart as strong of a flavor or smell as chlorine, a benefit for people sensitive to those characteristics.

Great Falls Water Treatment Plant operators and staff monitor the treatment process continually. In-line analyzers coupled with electronic data collection software provide real-time information for the entire treatment process. Additionally, operators and staff collect a variety of samples at each treatment step and finished water samples are collected from various locations in the city. These samples are analyzed at the Treatment Plant Laboratory as well as commercial laboratories to ensure the effectiveness of the treatment process and safety of the finished drinking water. A total of 3.91 billion gallons of water were processed at the Water Treatment Plant in 2025.

Useful Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest concentration that a contaminant is allowed to be in drinking water.

Consumer Confidence Report

2025

Maximum Contaminant Goal Level (MCGL): the concentration level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): the concentration level of a secondary contaminant which, when exceeded, may adversely affect the aesthetic quality of the drinking water.

Primary Contaminant: contaminants that can be harmful to human health at low concentrations.

Secondary Contaminant: contaminants in water that do not necessarily pose a health risk but interfere with the aesthetic quality of the drinking water.

Variances or Exceptions: state or EPA permissions to not meet an MCL or a treatment technique requirement under certain conditions.

Treatment Technique: a required process intended to reduce the level contaminants in drinking water.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers increased treatment requirements.

Contaminant: a constituent, impurity, or other undesirable element that makes a product polluted, unfit, or inferior.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of drinking water disinfection below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): the highest concentration of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Reporting Limit (RL): the lowest concentration that can be reliably measured within a specified range of precision and accuracy during routine laboratory operation.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): guidelines to identify acceptable concentrations of contaminants that may cause unpleasant tastes, odors, or color in drinking water.

Method Detection Limit: the minimum measured concentration of a substance that can be measured with 99% confidence that is not a blank.

Non-Detect (ND): the concentration of a target analyte is below the method detection limit for the analysis.

Contaminants regulated at your tap

January 2025

Constituent	AL	Results at the 90th Percentile	MCGL	# of sites above the AL	# of sites sampled	90th Percentile AL exceedance	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead	15 ppb	11.0 ppb	0	4	60	No	Corrosion of service lines and household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	1300 ppb	45.5 ppb	0	3	60	No	Corrosion of service lines and household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

July 2025

Constituent	AL	Results at the 90th Percentile	MCGL	# of sites above the AL	# of sites sampled	90th Percentile AL exceedance	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead	15 ppb	9.0 ppb	0	4	63	No	Corrosion of service lines and household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	1300 ppb	46.0 ppb	0	0	63	No	Corrosion of service lines and household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

Finished water from the treatment plant was analyzed for lead and copper on 8/5/2025. Both were ND.

The 90th percentile is the result concentration that 90 percent of all sample sites analyzed fall below. If this number exceeds the AL for either metal, the Water Plant would need to make changes to the treatment process so the water will not cause metals to leach from the plumbing in homes.

To satisfy EPA testing requirements water samples were collected from targeted homes within the city every six months in 2025. The results are in the table above. Sampling will continue in 2026 at the same interval. If you are interested in being included in future sampling events, please contact the Water Plant. More information and regular updates about the Lead and Copper Rule can be found on the EPA’s website (<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>).

Additionally, the City of Great Falls Water Treatment Plant will be undergoing upgrades to add corrosion control treatment techniques to the finished drinking water. The process will involve pH control to ensure that the pH of the water entering the distribution system is at or above 7. As well as the addition of orthophosphate. Orthophosphate will create a protective barrier in metal pipes and not allow water with a pH of less than 7 to dissolve pipe constituents into the drinking water. This will help protect people living in homes with lead service lines from the detrimental effects of lead consumption.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water primarily comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Great Falls is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If you have a lead service line and your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds or up to 5 minutes before using the 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

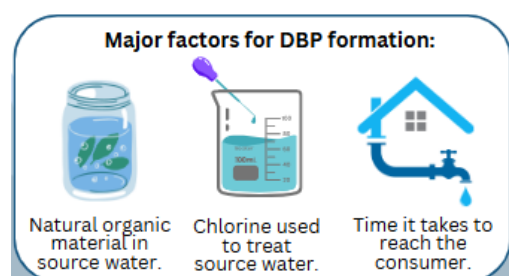
in drinking water, testing materials, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Contaminants regulated within the distribution system

Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Regulation Met?	Possible Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	<5% positive for TC	0.0	0 positive TC samples out of more than 840 samples analyzed.	Yes	Naturally occurring bacteria in the environment.
Total Residual Chlorine (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	0.20 – 2.11	Yes	Disinfection additive limits bacterial growth.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5, ppb)	60	--	21.5 – 48.9 Annual Average = 30.6	Yes	Byproducts of the drinking water disinfection process.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM, ppb)	80 ppb	--	23.3 – 47.5 Annual Average = 36.2	0	Byproducts of the drinking water disinfection process.

The EPA has developed a health advisory for the manganese in drinking water. While it is an essential nutrient for humans and animals at low concentrations, high concentrations of manganese could have adverse neurological effects. The health advisory limit has been set by the EPA at 0.3 mg/L. The concentration of manganese in the finished drinking water was ND, tested on 8/4/2025.

While the City of Great Falls employs the use of a UV system to sterilize viruses and bacteria, chlorine is the primary disinfectant used by the Water Plant. Chlorine does an excellent job of killing bacteria and microorganisms that could be harmful, but it also reacts with naturally occurring organic materials commonly found in surface water sources. When chlorine reacts with the organic compounds, it can form what is called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), or HAA5 and TTHMs. The concentration of these byproducts can vary seasonally with higher concentrations typically found during the warmer months of the year. The City of Great Falls monitors chlorine levels and the concentrations of organic carbon in the river water to adjust treatment techniques to try to minimize the formation of DBPs.



Constituent	MCL	Concentration	Regulation Met?
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	15% Removal Rate Required	1.8 – 2.5 ppm	Yes; 15% removal rate met.

Contaminants regulated at the Treatment Plant

Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Regulation Met?	Possible Sources of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	<0.3 NTU 95% of the time	0	0.032 - 0.184	Yes	Runoff
Total Residual Chlorine (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	1.70 - 2.30	Yes	Disinfection additive.
Chloramine (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	1.53 - 2.13	Yes	Disinfection additive.
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.01	0.0	0.003	Yes	Erosion of natural contaminants, mining wastes.
Fluoride (mg/L)	2.0	2.0	0.8	Yes	Erosion of natural contaminants. All fluoride present is naturally occurring.
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	10.0	ND	Yes	Runoff, fertilizers, septic tank leachates, industrial wastes.
pH	6.5-8.5	-	6.90 - 7.70	Yes	Erosion of natural contaminants, human activities.
Uranium (ug/L)	30	0.0	1.4	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits. Testing was completed in 2023 .

EPA standards balance the current understanding of the possible health effects of arsenic against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic. At high concentrations, the mineral is known to cause cancer in humans and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

The City of Great Falls Water Treatment Plant operated the 2025 calendar year with no violations.

Miscellaneous Constituents of Interest

Constituent	SMCL	Monitoring Location	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
Hardness (mg/L)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	145	Erosion of natural contaminants. Can cause water spots and deposits on fixtures.
Alkalinity (mg/L as calcium carbonate)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	105.6 – 130.0	Runoff. Can impart a salty or soda flavor to the water. May also contribute so dry skin.

Consumer Confidence Report

2025

Constituent	SMCL	Monitoring Location	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
Chloride (mg/L)	250.0	Finished Water (post-treatment)	15	Runoff. Can give water a salty flavor.
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS, mg/L)	500.0	Finished Water (post-treatment)	236	Runoff. Can contribute to hardness and cause colored water, staining, and mineral deposits.
Sulfate (mg/L)	250.0	Finished Water (post-treatment)	58	Runoff. Can give water a metallic or medicinal flavor. May also contribute to a sulfur smell.
Aluminum (mg/L)	0.05 - 0.20	Finished Water (post-treatment)	0.08	Runoff.
Calcium (mg/L)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	37	Runoff, erosion of natural contaminants.
Magnesium (mg/L)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	13	Runoff, erosion of natural contaminants.
Potassium (mg/L)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	4	Runoff, erosion of natural contaminants.
Sodium (mg/L)	--	Finished Water (post-treatment)	21	Runoff, erosion of natural contaminants.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

As part of the EPA's responsibility under the Safe Drinking Water Act every five years a list of priority, unregulated contaminants of interest are listed for each public water system to monitor over 12 months. In 2023 the City of Great Falls Water Treatment Plant conducted testing for the UCMR5 (5 denoting the fifth monitoring event) on the finished drinking water. The targeted, unregulated contaminants for that round were lithium (Li) and 29 different PFAS compounds.

PFAS is short for perfluoroalkyl- and polyfluoroalkyl- substances. These synthetic compounds are also known as forever chemicals because they do not easily break down under normal environmental conditions. PFAS are very common and found in everyday things such as non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing and shoes, outdoor equipment, tarps, food packaging, and dental floss. The health impacts of PFAS are still being investigated but it is suspected that they may cause some forms of cancer. Most of what is known about the health effects of lithium is related to its use as a pharmaceutical drug. Very little is known about how the intake of lithium from food and water may affect health.

Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lithium (ppb)	Not Specified	0	57.0 - 80.8	Erosion of natural contaminants.

Constituent	MCL	MCGL	Concentration	Possible Sources of Contamination
PFAS (ppb)	0.002 - 0.02	0	ND	Synthetic chemicals used in manufacturing and processing facilities, firefighting foams, and various household products.

All UCMR 5 testing was completed by City of Great Falls in 2023.

In April 2024 the EPA announced new regulations that require public water systems to monitor for six PFAS compounds. Initial monitoring must be completed by 2027 with ongoing compliance monitoring requirements to follow. The UCMR5 testing done by Water Plant staff satisfies the initial monitoring requirements for the new regulations.

Learn more about PFAS by visiting the EPA’s website: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Learn more about the UCMR5 here: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

Current and Upcoming Projects

As part of our commitment to provide the residents of Great Falls with quality drinking water, the Water Treatment Plant is regularly undergoing routine maintenance and upgrades. Below is a summary of the current and upcoming projects.

Service Line Inventory: The EPA is requiring that all water systems have a comprehensive inventory of all drinking water service lines. The City of Great Falls Engineering Department and Water Plant Staff have been working with residents to identify the composition of the service lines entering the homes in Great Falls. This is an ongoing process that will continue until all line materials have been identified. If there are questions about your service line, or you would like to inform us of the material your service line is comprised of, please call the Lead and Copper Hotline at 406-455-8401. You can also visit the city website for more information:

<http://Greatfallsmt.gov/900/Water-Service-Inventory>

Corrosion Control Treatment: Samples collected for the Lead and Copper Rule in June 2023 had a 90th percentile lead concentration of 0.01 mg/L. While this was not an exceedance, the difference between the 90th percentile concentration (0.01 mg/L) and the home with the highest concentration of lead triggered the City of Great Falls to use corrosion control treatment to help stabilize the chemistry of the finished drinking water. This will be necessary if the pH of the finished water decreases and the water is no longer scale forming.

In May 2024 the MT DEQ accepted the proposed corrosion control treatment plan submitted by the city. Treatment will include pH control by the addition of sodium hydroxide and the addition of orthophosphate to protect plumbing materials from being dissolved into the drinking water. The corrosion control treatment techniques will be employed starting in 2026.

Please contact the Water Treatment Plant with any questions or concerns about the new treatment technique by calling 406-727-1325.

Lead and Copper Testing in Schools and Daycares: As part of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) finalized in October 2024, all community water systems are required to sample elementary schools and daycare facilities for lead and copper concentrations in the drinking water. Most schools in the state of Montana have tested for lead and copper concentrations and have taken action to limit student and staff exposures to the metals. Results for the schools that participated can be found here:

<https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-lead>

Compliance requirements for this do not start until 2027, however Water Plant and City staff will be working to catalogue schools and daycare facilities within City limits. Once the lists are complete, City staff will work with each location to create and carry out a sampling plan. Sampling for lead and copper will occur at each site over the 10-year time frame as defined by the new regulation. All results will be reported to the locations and made publicly available in future CCRs, at a minimum.

While sampling is required at elementary schools only, if other schools request testing it will be made available to them.

If there are any questions about this report or the quality of the drinking water in your home please contact the Water Plant Laboratory Personnel, or the Water Utility Branch Manager 406-727-1325.

Public participation and opinions can be voiced at City Commission Meetings held on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7pm in the Commission Chambers. A guide to public participation can be found on the city website: <http://greatfallsmt.gov/344/Live-Meetings>

If you are interested in a tour, call the plant at 406-727-1325.