



# 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For the City of Whitefish Water Utility

We are pleased to present to you this Year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services 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 be informed of 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 surface water collected from the Huskiss Basin watershed and from Whitefish Lake. A water filtration plant and Whitefish Lake pumping station were completed in November of 2000 at a total cost of over 6.2 million dollars. Financing for the project was a loan from the State Revolving Fund Program administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Greg Acton, Utility Supervisor at 406-863-2456**. 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 City Council meetings. They are held on the first and third Monday's of each month at 7:10 PM in the City Council chambers located at Second Street and Baker Avenue.

The City of Whitefish routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table below shows the results of all contaminants detected for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. Some of our data in the tables are more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and State drinking water regulations.

In the following table 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:

**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.

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

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

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

**MCL: 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.

**MCLG: 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.

**MRDL: Maximum Residual Detection Limit** - 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.

**MRDLG: Maximum Residual Detection Limit Goal** - 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.

**Cont.: Continuous monitoring** - Instruments that monitor for the listed constituent are on-line and continuously monitor and record results.

**Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and always flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

Contaminant	Violations	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Health Source of Substance
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity	N	Cont.	0.069	15 samples	NTU	N/A	TT	Naturally occurring, water treatment
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	N	Each Month	2.15	0.53 - 2.15	ppm	N/A	TT	Naturally occurring in water
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper *	N	Avg. 2007	0.65	See Note	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	A constituent of household plumbing systems, common in natural waters
Lead *	N	Avg. 2007	0.01	See Note	ppb	0	AL=15	A constituent of household plumbing systems, common in natural waters
Fluoride	N	JUL 2008	0.02	-	ppm	4	4	Fluoride is added to municipal water systems to reduce tooth decay
Nitrate - Nitric, Total (as Nitrogen)	N	JUL 2008	0.02	-	ppm	10	10	Can be found in natural water, leach from septic tanks, animal waste, fertilizers
<b>Trace and Copper Based Toxicity</b> - The presence of Lead, Copper, and Chloride at household testing frequencies for other water quality parameters is not a concern. However, each has been detected 27 years per violation per lead and 1.5 years per violation for copper.								
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
Chlorine	N	Cont.	1.44	0.27 - 1.44	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MEDL = 4	Water treatment for disinfection
Halogenated Nitriles (HAA's)	N	Each Quarter	41	21 - 40	ppb	N/A	40	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (THM's)	N	Each Quarter	40	15 - 40	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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 (800-426-4791).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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 (800-426-4791).

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for your understanding. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions or comments.

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MORE BELOW TABLE