

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water comes from wells that draw groundwater from the Pine River alluvium. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dale Kortz, Manager at the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District office or call (970) 884-2925. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call the above contact about the District or any scheduled meetings.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the public in general.**

All drinking water, including bottled drinking 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. 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 of infections. More information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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. 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**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic** chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive** contaminants, that 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 Colorado Department of Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The table contains many terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

<b>AL</b>	Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
<b>HS</b>	High Solids – alpha was not tested
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" 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.
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level 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.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – 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.
<b>MFL</b>	Million fibers per Liter – A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers in water longer than 10 micrometers.
<b>mrem/year</b>	Millirems per Year – A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>ND or BDL</b>	Non-Detects or Below Detection Level- laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present ("<" symbol for less than, the same as ND or BDL)
<b>NT</b>	Not tested.
<b>ppm or mg/l</b>	Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.
<b>ppb or ug/l</b>	Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter (ug/l). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.
<b>ppt or ng/l</b>	Parts per trillion or Nanograms per liter (ng/l). One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000.
<b>ppq or pg/l</b>	Parts per quadrillion or Picograms per liter (pg/l). One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
<b>pCi/l</b>	PicoCuries per liter – a measure of radioactivity in water.
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique – is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
	<b>Variances and Exemptions</b> – State permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Unregulated Contaminants**

The District voluntarily participated in the Colorado radon water survey in 1998, which reported a radon level in our water of 1135 pCi/l (picocuries per liter). Radon is currently not regulated but regulations are being developed that will be based on a risk assessment completed by the National Academy of Sciences and on cost to benefit considerations. According to AWWA, a system with radon levels more than 4000 pCi/l will provide the most significant benefits to public health from treatment. Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found in the soil throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can reach high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also be released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through the soil, radon entering the home through tap water will be, in most cases, a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air that contains radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water that contains radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is four (4) Picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are relatively inexpensive. For additional information, call the State radon program at 303-692-3030 or call the EPA Radon Hotline 1-800-SOS-RADON.

## Microbiological Contaminants

We are required to add a disinfectant to the water to protect you against microbial contaminants. Beginning on September 2, 2003 two water samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria which were additionally tested for fecal coliform and E.coli and found to be safe. The same sampling point subsequently tested safe for total coliform bacteria on September 6, 2004 and a non-emergency public notification was issued on 9/26/03 in accordance with the CO Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Satisfactory disinfectant levels were indicated during samplings and additional testing upstream and downstream of the sample point were reported safe. Based on the results of the additional sampling and subsequent testing, we suspect accidental contamination of the sample bottles and/or recent changes in lab procedures.

The Forest Lakes Metro District is pleased to report that the District experienced **NO OTHER VIOLATIONS** of an MCL, Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting requirement further reducing your potential for an adverse health effect from drinking our water. There is a Colorado statewide waiver for dioxin monitoring.

Forest Lakes routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our water quality analyses. **All regulated contaminants that were detected in the water, even in minute traces, are listed here.** The table contains the name of each substance, test date, unit of measurement, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination and if the level detected is in violation. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	CCR Units	Level Detected /Range	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS –</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 Positive	0	1 Positive	2 Positive	YES	9/2/03 9/4/03	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS –</b>							
Beta/photon emitters	50	0	pCi/l	< 4	NO	4/16/02	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	15	0	pCi/l	< 3	NO	4/16/02	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>LEAD and COPPER -</b>							
Copper – None of the homes sampled exceeded the AL.	AL=1.3	1.3	ppm	0.4	NO	1/1- 12/31/03	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead - None of the homes sampled exceeded the AL.	AL=15	0	ppb	3	NO	1/1- 12/31/03	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS –</b>							
Antimony	6	6	ppb	< 1	NO	4/1/03	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardant; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic Effective 1/23/06 until then the MCL is 0.05 mg/l (50ppb) and there is no MCLG	10	0	ppb	< 1	NO	4/1/03	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2	2	ppm	0.092	NO	4/1/03	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	4	4	ppb	< 1	NO	4/1/03	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium	5	5	ppb	< 0.3	NO	4/1/03	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium	100	100	ppb	< 20	NO	4/1/03	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	< 0.1	NO	4/1/03	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury [inorganic]	2	2	ppb	< 0.1	NO	4/1/03	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Combined Nitrate/Nitrite	10	10	ppm	0.059	NO	4/1/03	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	ppb	< 1	NO	4/1/03	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium	2	0.5	ppb	< 1	NO	4/1/03	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

The State 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. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Testing of other unregulated contaminants on 4/1/03 produced the following results: sodium = 5.2 ppm, nickel = < 3 ppt. In addition, the State has issued our water system waivers from monitoring for asbestos, cyanide, glyphosate, and nitrite.

## Questions and Comments

Please contact Dale Kortz, Manager, Forest Lakes Metro District, P.O. Box 440, Bayfield, CO 81122, (970) 884-2925 for questions or comments concerning your drinking water. The District Board of Directors regular Board meeting schedule is the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 1:30 pm in the Forest Lakes Community Center, 998 Alpine Forest Dr., unless otherwise posted on the District public notification board located at the Forest Lakes mail stop, 257 Alpine Forest Dr.

The District continues to build the master planned Forest Lakes water system with funds generated from plant investment/tap and impact fees. Remaining designed water facilities and systems to be constructed include approximately 4 miles of pipe, 3 tanks, 1 well, 4 booster stations, 2 pressure reducing stations and additional equipment, facilities and systems required to meet future drinking water regulations. Water service is to approximately 80% of the lots, excluding Unit 3.

## Pará los que hablan español

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.