FOREST LAKES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, La Plata County, Colorado PWSID# CO0134360

2008 Drinking Water Quality Report *July 2009*

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 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. You may obtain a copy of the report by visiting http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html or by contacting the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District at 970-884-2925.

Potential sources of contamination in our source water area come from: oil/gas facilities, row crops, pasture/hay, forest, septic systems and road miles.

The Source Water Assessment report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that could occur. It does not mean that the contamination has or will occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan.

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

AL	Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
HS	High Solids – alpha was not tested
MCL	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.
MCLG	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.
MRDLG	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.
MRDL	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.
MFL	Million fibers per Liter – A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers in water longer than 10 micrometers.
mrem/ year	Millirems per Year – A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
NA	Not Applicable
ND or BDL	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)
NT	Not tested.
ppm or mg/l	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.
ppb or ug/l	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.
ppt or ng/l	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.
ppq or pg/l	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.
pCi/l	PicoCuries per liter – a measure of radioactivity in water.
TT	Treatment Technique – is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
RAA	Running Annual Average – An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months.
Gross Alpha	Including RA, Excluding RN & U – This is the gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222 and uranium.
	Variances and Exemptions – State permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Microbiological Contaminants

We are required to add a disinfectant to the water to protect you against microbial contaminants.

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 analysis. **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, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	CCR Units	Level Detected /Range	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS -							
Beta/photon emitters	50	0	pCi/l	< 4	NO	4/16/02	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	15	0	pCi/1	< 3	NO	4/16/02	Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD and COPPER -							
Copper – None of the homes sampled exceeded the AL.	AL=13	13	ppb	4.9	NO	1/1-12/31/06	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	5	NO	1/1-12/31/06	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS –							
Antimony, Total	6	6	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardant; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic, Total	10	10	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium, Total	200	200	ppt	3	NO	3/29/06	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium, Total	4	4	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium, Total	50	50	ppt	< 6	NO	3/29/06	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium, Total	100	100	ppb	< 20	NO	3/29/06	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	40	40	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury, Total	20	20	ppt	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Nitrate (As N)	100	100	ppb	7.9	NO	5/7/08	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (As N)	100	100	ppt	< 2	NO	6/12/06	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium	2	0.5	ppb	< 1	NO	3/29/06	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	NA	ppb	9.1	NO	8/7/07	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60	NA	ppb	< 5	NO	8/7/07	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination

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.

Radon is currently not regulated, but 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 a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found in the solid throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a hoe 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 hoe through the soil, radon entering the hoe 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 is 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.

Testing of other unregulated contaminants produced the following results: sodium = 3.2 ppm (3/29/06), nickel = < 3 ppt (3/29/06) and sulfate = 7.3 ppm (7/17/02). The District also tested regulated and unregulated phase I, II & V organic chemicals including synthetic and volatile organic compounds which were reported less than regulated detectable limits. In addition, the State has issued our water system waivers from monitoring for asbestos, cyanide and glyphosate. There is a Colorado statewide waiver for dioxin monitoring.

Violations

No violations occurred in the Calendar year of 2008.

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.

Pará los que hablan español

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