

2025 Annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

Town of Ethel

PWS ID # 0040002

Report Completed on June 2026

We are pleased to present to you your 2025 Annual Report. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31, 2025 and is a snapshot of last year's water quality. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. In addition to the contaminants listed below in the chart, we tested for 11 additional organic chemicals for which the state and EPA have set standards. We found no detectable levels of those chemicals. We want you to understand 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. We routinely monitor contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Both tap water and bottled water come from 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. The water can also pick up and transport substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. These substances are also called contaminants.

Water System Information

A source water assessment has been completed for the water supply to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water to identify potential sources of contamination. Our water source consists of 3 wells that draw from the Lower Wilcox Aquifer. Our water supply received a lower susceptibility ranking to contamination.

The water is checked biweekly and sampled monthly to ensure quality drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Galen Shumaker at 601-416-7402. 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 meetings. They are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Ethel Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

Definitions

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

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

Treatment Technique (TT) – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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.

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.

ppb – parts per billion = micrograms per liter (=1 drop in 1 billion gallons)

ppm – parts per million = milligrams per liter (=1 drop in 1 million gallons)

PCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radio activity)

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

Significant Deficiencies:

During a sanitary survey conducted on 9/26/2024, the MS State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): **Function and Condition of Treatment Facilities**. The system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 3/4/2025 using a compliance plan or is with the initial 120 days minimum.

Our system has failed to meet the compliance deadline and enforcement action is pending.

Contaminant Table							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	MCLG	MCL	Major Source in Drinking Water
Inorganic Contaminants							
13.Barium	N	2025	0.0254 ppm	No Range	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
23.Fluoride	N	2025	0.121 ppm	No Range	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium	N	2024*	51600 ppb	No Range	20000	0	Road salt, water treatment chemicals, water softeners and sewage effluents
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products							
83.Chlorine	N	2025	1.10 ppm	0.70 to 1.75	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
84.Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	2025	1.28 ppb	No Range	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
85.TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2025	6.32 ppb	3.70 to 8.93	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

* Most recent sample results available

Health Effects

Sodium. EPA recommends that drinking water sodium not exceed 20 milligrams per liter. Excess sodium from salt in the diet increases the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

Lead Service Lines

The Town of Ethel has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory and no lead lines were found. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspection and archived records.

Lead Educational Statement

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. Our Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect your family’s risk by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have lead service lines or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Galen Shumaker, Town of Ethel. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

The average household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day. There are many low cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- ▶ Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath.
- ▶ Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ▶ Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- ▶ Run your clothes wash and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ▶ Water plants only when necessary.
- ▶ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ▶ Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- ▶ Teach your children about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- ▶ Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received this report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses). You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand, mail, email, or another method.

Please call our office if you have any questions.