

# North Havre County Water District

Montana Public Water Supply ID number 02988

## *2023 Water Quality Report*

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and in an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water comes from the City of Havre. Havre City Water provides water to North Havre County Water and Sewer District, which then enters our North Havre-owned distribution lines and flows to your home. Havre City Water gets its water from the Milk River. To ensure its purity, they treat their water with a small amount of chlorine. For more information about our source water, testing that was performed in the last year, contaminants detected, and other important information, please see the annual water quality report for the City of Havre Water.

We have 50 service connections on our system, and added one new connection last year. A sanitary survey inspection of our water system was conducted in August of last year. No significant deficiencies that may affect the quality of our drinking water were noted.

We want you, our valued customers to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Wild Horse Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mike Ladenburg at (406) 390-8054. Mike is our certified operator with 18 years of experience. He attends periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements. The most recent training he received was in January of last year and the topic was small water systems.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive elements. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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. We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We send all of our water samples to Montana Environmental Laboratory in Kalispell (406-755-2131). They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations. North Havre County Water performed the following tests to identify possible contaminants in our distribution system during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023:

- 12 coliform bacteria tests – all were coliform free.
- Five tests on the water from our customers’ homes to determine the possible presence of lead and copper leaching out of the faucets and fixtures – results were within EPA guidelines.
- One set of tests to determine the possible presence of 10 disinfection byproducts – results were within EPA guidelines.

The following table lists the contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of the data in this table may be more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year.

### Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE- MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine	N	2023	1.2 (1 - 1.2)	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper	N	9-11-23	90th % is 0.35	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits: Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	9-11-23	90th % is 3	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing: Erosion of natural deposits
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA's)	N	6-13-23	36	ppb	0	60	By product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	6-13-23	53	ppb	0	80	By product of drinking water chlorination

**DEFINITIONS:**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

### **What does this table tell us?**

As you can see our system had no MCL violations. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring or man-made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 1-800-426-4791, or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by a certified laboratory like the one we send our samples to (Montana Environmental Laboratory, 406-755-2131). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

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, or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

In September of 2000, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of the City of Havre water system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our source water to contamination. This report is available online at <http://deq.mt.gov/water/programs/dw#accordion1-collapse2>. The report can be summarized in the following table.

### Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management recommendations
<b>Highway/ Rail/ Pipeline Crossings</b>	VOCs and SOCs	Spills	High	None	Very High	Emergency response planning, Maintain a list of transported chemicals.
<b>Hill County Fairgrounds</b>	Microbial Contaminants and Nitrate	Direct discharge due to storm event	High	None	Very High	Collect and dispose of animal wastes during fairs
<b>N. MT Ag. Experiment Station</b>	Microbial Contaminants and Nitrate	Direct discharge due to storm event	High	Runoff Control	High	Increase setback from Beaver Creek
<b>BN Santa Fe Remote Fueling Area</b>	Diesel Fuel	Overland flow of diesel spilled during train refueling	Moderate	Land Slope	Moderate	Spill containment and spill prevention procedures, Emergency response planning.
<b>Stormwater Runoff</b>	VOCs and SOCs	Direct discharge	Moderate	Dilution	Moderate	Runoff control, Waste chemical collection
<b>Cultivated Cropland</b>	SOCs, Nitrate	Spills or excessive application of Ag. chemicals	Moderate	Thick clay-rich soils	Moderate	Safe mixing and application of herbicides
<b>LUST Sites</b>	VOCs	Seepage from groundwater	Low	Thick clay-rich soils	Low	Monitor remediation progress
<b>Septic Systems</b>	Microbial Contaminants and Nitrate	Infiltration of effluent	Low	Thick clay-rich soils	Low	Growth management

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

Prepared by Montana Environmental Lab, LLC 3/24

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

MT0004720

NCMRWA NORTH HAVRE CWD LEG

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023

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 contact:

Name: Eric Minneti

Phone 406-594-7115\_\_\_\_\_

NCMRWA NORTH HAVRE CWD LEG is Purchased Surface Water

## 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. 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>

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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 which limit the amount 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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Source Water Information

SWA = Source Water Assessment

Source Water Name

CONSECUTIVE CONNECTION FROM

Type of Water

SW

Report Status

\_\_\_\_\_

Location

See Attached\_\_\_\_\_

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/07/2022	1.3	1.3	0.52	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09/07/2022	0	15	10	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

- Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
- Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running 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 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 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 a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for 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.
- mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- na: not applicable.



## Water Quality Test Results

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

### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	12	12 - 12	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	22	22 - 22	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



**City of Havre MT0000524**

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023

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 **Trevor Mork at (406) 265-4941** or **Amanda Vaughn at (406) 265-5215**. Public Participation Opportunities: **If you want to learn more about our water, you can attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. The meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.**

## 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.

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- 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 City of Havre**

which is classified as a *Surface Water* 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 look under "4. Make Results of the Delineation and Assessment Available to the Public" and then click on the grey box called "Review Source Water Assessment Reports".

City of Havre utilizes the listed water sources below:

<b>Water Source Name</b>	<b>Water Source Type</b>
INTAKE MILK RIVER	Source Water Intake

## 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	09-20-2022	1.3	1.3	0.187	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09-20-2022	0	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## 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	2023	1	.66 - 1.1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	28	19 - 53	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	59	26 - 82	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

### Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2020	0.09	.09 - .09	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2020	0.10	.1 - .1	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2023	0.11	.11 - .11	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Total Organic Carbon

Contaminant	Collection Date	Average	Range	Unit	TT Minimum Ratio	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2022	2.59	2.12-3.33	Ratio	1.00	N	Naturally present in the environment- Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

### Turbidity

	Date	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement (NTU)	2023	1.00 NTU	0.257 NTU 26SEPT23	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2023	<i>At least 95%</i>	100% For all months	N	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.