

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For The

Seeley Lake Water District

P.O. Box 503, Seeley Lake, MT. 59868

(406) 677-2559

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the **quality of the water** and services we deliver to you every day. **Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water.** 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.** Our water source is Seeley Lake.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Vincent Chappell at 677-2559 or 210-3760.** We want you, 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 at 5:30 pm on the last Thursday of each month, at the Water District facility on Rice Ridge Road. The current elected members of the Water Board are as follows:

Charlie Hahn—President

Todd Johnson—Vice President

Kris Martin—Director

Chris Lorentz—Director

Freda Rathbun—Director

If you have questions about the Water District any one of the Board members, Vincent Chappell, our Manager, or our employees will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can answer them for you.

Seeley Lake Water District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water, following all Federal and State laws. The table on the following page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020.

Some of our data in the tables is more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. **Our sampling complies with EPA and Montana State drinking water regulations.**

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

- *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- *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. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	N	DAILY	0.180	0.03 - 0.18	NTU's	n/a	0.3	Soil runoff
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
TTHM {Total Trihalomethanes}	N	Yearly	49	49	ppb		80	By-product of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	N	Quarterly	2.5	2.5	Ug/l		Year average of 60	By-product of chlorination

Note: **Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

Note: **Turbidity: The specified limit for our treatment process is 0.3 NTU's. Each month 95% of our measurements must be below this specified limit. This number represents the month with the lowest percentage of a sample meeting this limit. Our water system has met this requirement 100% of the time. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Note: *Haloacetic Acids: Total Haloacetic Acid is a by-product from our disinfection chlorine reacting with the natural organics in the water that we treat.

Note: Lead - 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. The Seeley Lake Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 the steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. . **At this time, we have no test sites that are in violation for lead.**

The Seeley Lake Water District wants you to know that your drinking water is safe to drink and we will continue to work hard to keep it that way!

The Water District is doing everything that we can to protect our water system for you the customer, to ensure safe clean drinking water. If you, the customer, see anyone or know of anyone tampering with equipment, valves, fire hydrants, buildings, or unlawfully using water or equipment please contact us at 677-2559, or contact 911, so that we can deter any damage or potential contamination of our water system.

This year the Water District will be starting a program to replace all of the water meters in our system. The current water meters have radios attached to them that transmit the data to us. This radio equipment has become obsolete and needs to be replaced. Later this year we will be going house to house installing new water meters. Please bear with us while we do this. We will try to make every accommodation to you, our customer. Also, with regard to COVID-19, we will do everything in our power to ensure your safety. If you have any questions or concerns please call us.

January 1, 2021 the Water District had to implement a 5% rate increase in order to keep up with the rising cost of expenses. We are trying to do everything we can to keep expenses low and running the system as efficient as possible. We are also re-evaluating our policy for summer home properties that shut off their water every year. Under current policy when the District shuts off the water to the property, the base fee (\$18.90 for a ¾" meter/\$33.83 for a 1" meter) is also discontinued while the water is off. The base fee generates revenue to pay the District's operating expenses. Most other communities, if not all, do not shut off this base fee. This policy was adopted decades ago and as the community has evolved over the years it now costs the District \$10,000 to \$14,000 annually, creating a large deficit for the District to accommodate. We will be discussing this issue more in upcoming meetings and will hold a public hearing regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please call us.

The Water District is trying to make it easier for all customers to receive information with regards to the District. We now have a website for the Water District and will be utilizing this to distribute information. We also have an online bill pay section on our website. The link to the web site is: <https://www.seeleylakewaterdistrict.org>

We encourage anyone to stop by and take a tour of our water plant so that you can see and understand what we do. If you would like to tour the water plant please call ahead so that we can set aside some time to give the tour. If there is anything that we can do to serve you better please give me, Vincent Chappell, a call at 677-2559 or in the case of an emergency call 210-3760.

We at the Seeley Lake Water District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water source, Seeley Lake, which is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.

Every year we evaluate our income & expenses and then formulate the yearly budget accordingly. A financial review is performed annually to verify those numbers. JCCS reviewed the Water District financials for January - December 2020.

This Annual Quality Water Report **will be posted on our website for all** water customers to review. A copy of this report is available by calling or stopping by the Seeley Lake Water District.