

# **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

## **Oxbow, North Dakota**

### **2023**

We are pleased to provide you with this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water that comes from two wells that are 148 feet deep. The water is taken from the Fargo Aquifer.

The city of Oxbow is participating in North Dakota's Wellhead Protection Program. Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has determined that our source water is "*not likely*" susceptible to potential contaminants.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dennis Dalager @ 218-770-4631. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Oxbow Country Club House. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Dennis at the number listed above.

The city of Oxbow would appreciate it if large volume water customers would please post copies of the *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report* in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

The city of Oxbow routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, 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, 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the following table, 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:

**(NA)** - Not applicable

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Action Level (AL)** - 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.

2023 Test Results for the city of Oxbow, North Dakota								
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Units	Range	Date (year)	Violation Yes/No Other Info	Likely Source of Contamination

<b>Lead/Copper</b>								
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.497 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value	ppm	N/A	2021	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*	0	AL=15	No Detect 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value	ppb	N/A	2021	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectants</b>								
Chlorine Residual	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4.0	1.1	ppm	0.49 to 1.83	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	0.081	ppm	N/A	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Manganese	N/A	N/A	0.051	ppm	N/A	2018	No	N/A
<b>Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products (System-Wide)</b>								
HAA5	60	N/A	No Detect	ppb	N/A	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	80	N/A	No Detect	ppb	N/A	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

EPA requires monitoring of over eighty drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

\*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 city of Oxbow is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 drinking water, you may wish to have your water evaluated. 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>.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least lesser 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 (1-800-426-4791).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**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 (1-800-426-4791).**

Please call Dennis Dalager @ 218-770-4631 if you have questions regarding your water system.

The city of Oxbow works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

