

March, 2024

A look at your local water quality:

In compliance with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, *Sicangu Mni Wiconi Water System* is providing our water users with this report on the quality of our drinking water. This report presents data compiled during the past twelve months from *January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023*.

RST-Rural Water Systems is pleased to inform the public that the water is “safe” and meets all federal Drinking Water Standards. During this reporting year the water was tested monthly for bacteriological contaminants (RTCR), Chlorine Residuals (SWTR and DBPR) Lead and Copper, Disinfection By-Products (DBPs) bi-annually, and UCMR5. All water samples were analyzed at an USEPA certified laboratory. Reports are on file at the RST-Rural Water Systems office, OSTRWSS Treatment Plant, USEPA Region 8 office, and contract lab. RST-Rural Water Systems annual water quality report for *Sicangu Mni Wiconi* can be seen at [HYPERLINK "https://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/reports" https://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/reports](https://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/reports). A copy of the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report can be requested from the OST-Mni Wicoini Water Treatment Plant, Ft. Pierre, SD at (605) 223-9292.

You should know:

Some persons 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 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 risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Did you know:

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 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 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 amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled-water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 RST-Rural Water Systems at (605) 747-2378 or the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Water Source:

Your water comes from the OST-Mni Wiconi Core Plant in Ft. Pierre, SD. Surface water from Lake Sharpe located directly below the Oahe Dam is collected through a large intake pipe located 75 ft. off shore and 19 ft. below the water surface at high level in the main channel of the Missouri River. The finished treated water meets or exceeds the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements for drinking water which is distributed to residential users.

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.

Consecutive connections to Sicangu Mni Wiconi include the following interconnects: Mission 83 and 3rd Street, Mission N. Taft St, and Mission Washington St.

Treatment:

The surface water undergoes a *chloramination* process, which introduces a combination of chlorine and ammonia to the raw water source. Chloramines are used as a disinfectant to eliminate or protect against coliform bacteria and other pathogenic contaminants.

Bacteriological Monitoring:

Bacteriological monitoring is performed monthly to test for the presence of coliform bacteria, fecal coliform, and *E.coli*. Your system is required to collect six monthly samples as defined by the size and population served. An approved sampling plan is in place to collect routine samples throughout the system each month.

Chemical Monitoring:

Note to our water users: The USEPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants or parameters in source waters before systems are initiated. Samples are required once again during a three-year compliance period. Any contaminants over the MCL reported in the initial sampling will have increased sample-monitoring schedules. Systems reporting low to zero levels may be allowed to take fewer samples during the compliance period. Our water systems also participated in quarterly Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) compliance testing and analysis. 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.

Lead Monitoring:

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 *Sicangu Mni Wiconi Water System* 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 drinking 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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead" http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Local water quality contacts:

Questions regarding your local water quality can be directed to Young Colombe at RST-Rural Water Systems at (605) 747-2378. The OST-Mni Wiconi Water Treatment Plant can be reached at (605) 223-9292. Our commitment is to provide quality water on tap to the people of Corn Creek, Black Pipe, Swift Bear, Horse Creek, City of Mission, South Antelope, and Sicangu Village communities.

Water Quality Test Results

Treatment Technique or TT:
drinking water.

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in

Unregulated contaminants UCMR5 tested quarterly in 2023.

Lithium- Range= 60.2-69.6 ppb Average=65.7 ppb

UCMR5 Information for Annual CCRs Final general language for community water system CCRs that have UCMR5 detections:

As part of an on-going evaluation program, the EPA has required us to monitor for some contaminants in drinking water that are not currently regulated. Under the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5), EPA is gathering information on the occurrence of 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water. UCMR5 is intended to improve understanding about the presence and quantity of these substances in public drinking water systems, and EPA often does not have full knowledge of the health effects for these unregulated contaminants. The UCMR5 data collected on PFAS and lithium from drinking water systems will help the EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The process of developing regulatory standards is careful, deliberative, and data based. Monitoring for contaminants that are not regulated also helps federal, state, and other researchers prioritize studies for health effects information, identify data gaps, and determine the need for future studies to improve our understanding of the possible health risks associated with these contaminants in public drinking water. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science. For more information about UCMR5, visit [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule"](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Final language following the table of quantitative lithium results in CCRs:

Lithium is a naturally occurring metal and may be found at higher concentrations in certain parts of the country, particularly in groundwater sources in arid locations in the Western U.S. Lithium has been used in pharmaceuticals for a long time to treat certain medical conditions under the care of a physician. Despite the abundance of information on patients receiving lithium at therapeutic levels, there has historically been limited information available to evaluate health risks in people at the levels associated with typical drinking water consumption, which are thought to be much lower than patients prescribed lithium as a therapy. Getting a better understanding of how much environmental lithium the public may be exposed to is one of the reasons the EPA is choosing to monitor for the presence and levels of lithium in drinking water systems around the country. At present, EPA cannot confidently estimate the risk for people with lithium exposures from drinking water between the UCMR5 reporting limit of 9 µg/L (micrograms per liter) and a much higher concentration equivalent to a therapeutic dose. Therapeutic doses of lithium generally range from 600 to 1,200 mg/day (milligrams per day), which would be the equivalent of drinking water containing $\geq 240,000$ µg/L

lithium. The science on the potential for lithium's effects on human health, and at what levels including those which may be present in the environment, is still evolving. For more information on lithium, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule#lithium>

