

ST. FRANCIS WATER SYSTEM

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT (PWS #4690020 C/GW)

July, 2025

A look at your local water quality:

In compliance with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, *St. Francis 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, 2024 to December 31, 2024.**

RST-Rural Water Systems is pleased to inform the public that your water is “safe” and meets all federal Drinking Water Standards. During this reporting year the water was tested monthly for bacteriological contaminants, Disinfection By-products, and Nitrate. All water samples were analyzed at an USEPA certified laboratory. Hard copy reports are on file at the RST-Rural Water Systems office, USEPA Region 8 office, and contract lab. RST-Rural Water Systems annual water quality report for *St. Francis Water System* can be seen at <https://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/reports>.

For additional information concerning this report please call RST-Rural Water Systems Director Young Colombe at (605) 747-2378.

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* and other microbial contaminants 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, can 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 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 Water & Sewer (605) 747-2378 or the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Our Water Source:

Our ground water comes from the **Ogallala Aquifer**. The Ogallala Aquifer is one of the world's largest and best water sources extending from Texas to Southern South Dakota. An isopach map generated indicates that the aquifer thickness ranges from 90-190 feet with lithology comprised of siltstone to fine or medium grained sandstone with TDS lower than 500 ppm. Currently, the St. Francis Water System uses four (4) production wells to pump water from the aquifer into our system.

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.

Source Water Information:

<u>Source Water Name</u>	<u>Type of Water</u>	<u>Report Status</u>	<u>Location</u>
Well 01	GW	Active	School
Well 02	GW	Active	NW
Well 03	GW	Active	NE
Well 04	GW	Inactive	South

Treatment:

Our ground water system is treated with a small amount of chlorine. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant to eliminate coliform bacteria and pathogenic viruses. Municipalities are required by law to treat their water systems to prevent water borne illnesses. Our department does not add fluoride to the drinking water.

Bacteriological Monitoring:

Bacteriological monitoring is performed monthly to test for the presence of coliform bacteria, fecal coliform, and E.coli. Our system is required to collect two samples per month as defined by the size and population served. Our samples indicated one violations in the year 2024 (total coliform positive). Coliforms are bacteria that occur naturally in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potential problems in the water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. Because we found coliforms during sampling, we were required to conduct one assessment of the system, also known as a Level 1 assessment, to identify possible sources of contamination. One Level 1 assessment was completed. We were required to take 0 corrective actions. In addition, we were required sample three of our production wells. All source water samples were safe during the Level 1 assessment.

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 issued a waiver and allowed to take fewer samples during the compliance period.

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 *St. Francis 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 <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 (605) 747-2378. Our commitment is to provide quality water on tap to the people of St. Francis, Spring Creek, and Two Strike areas.

2024 Regulated Contaminants Detected – St. Francis 084690020

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	2		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	0.4	0.3 - 0.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	5	4.62 - 4.62	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	9	9.04 - 9.04	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	11/29/2022	3	3 - 3	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	11/29/2022	0.162	0.162 - 0.162	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	3	2.7 - 2.7	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	11/29/2022	0.79	0.79 - 0.79	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

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.
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.

Violations Table

E. coli			
Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITOR GMR TRIGGERED/ADDITIONAL, MAJOR	08/06/2024	2024	We failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.