

2024 McGrath Consumer Confidence Report PWS# AK2280155

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 7 of those contaminants and found only 2 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The public water system for the City of McGrath, Alaska, is a surface water system that obtains water near the center of the village from the west bank of the Kuskokwim River. Water from the river is filtered, treated for particulate matter, chlorinated, and stored in two storage tanks near the water treatment facility.

Source water assessment and its availability

Source water assessments have been completed by the ADEC as a first step towards voluntary local source water protection efforts. Vulnerability rankings are assigned based on the susceptibility of the drinking water source, recent sampling results, and the presence of potential contaminant sources. They do not necessarily indicate these contaminants will reach your source of water. The McGrath Water system had a source water assessment completed in January 2004 and received the following vulnerability rankings: The overall protection area received a susceptibility rating of "very high". In addition, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of "high" for bacteria/viruses, "very high" for nitrates/nitrites, "very high" for volatile organic chemicals, "high" for heavy metals, "very high" for other organic chemicals, and "high"

for synthetic organic chemicals. The source water assessment results full report can be obtained by contacting the DEC Drinking Water Program directly on 907-269-7549.

Why are there contaminants in my 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.

(i) Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can naturally occur or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) 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.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in learning more about our water system and about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water, please contact the City Office.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Monitoring and reporting compliance data violations

1. We are required to report the level of distribution chlorine found in the water in the distribution system when we perform our monthly total coliform sampling. We did not do this for the months of March and April 2024. Chlorine is a water additive used to control microbes. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects on their eyes, nose, and/or stomach discomfort. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. We returned to compliance with the submittal of the May 2024 monthly operator report. Health effects unknown.
2. We are required to meet the Total Organic Carbon percentage removal ratio. We failed to meet the percentage removal ratio during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. We returned to compliance in October by meeting the required percent removal for Quarter 4. Health effects unknown.
3. We are required to submit the monthly operator report (Chlorine and Turbidity) at the end of every month. We are required to monitor combined effluent turbidity levels and the chlorine residual levels after treatment at the entry point to the distribution system. Turbidity is a measure of water clarity and how much suspended material (such as soil particles, algae, and microbes) is in the water. High turbidity can reduce the effectiveness of chlorine in disinfecting microbes in the water. We were late in submitting the December monthly operator report for Chlorine and Turbidity, returning to compliance in February 2025. Health effects unknown.
4. We were late completing the public notice for TOC percentage removal. We returned to compliance in March 2025. Health effects unknown.

Additional Information for Lead

The Lead Service Line Inventory resulted in no lead service lines being found. We reviewed available historical service line information that showed there was not any lead, galvanized requiring replacement or unknown service lines in our PWS. The Lead Service Information can be accessed using the link provided below.

The following link can be used to access inventory information - <https://ak-lsli-adec.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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. MCGRATH WATER SYSTEM is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact MCGRATH WATER SYSTEM (Public Water System Id: AK2280155) by calling 907-524-3825 or emailing clerk@cityofmcgrath.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.88	0.4	0.88	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Halo acetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	56	28	108.5	2024	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	63	25.4	111.7	2024	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Compounds	NA	TT	1.28	0.91	1.40	2024	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Inorganic Contaminants

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.128	NA	NA	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
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Microbiological Contaminants

Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	0.275	NA	NA	2024	No	Soil runoff
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100% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .275. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.641	0.011	1.2	0/5	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	0	0.16	1.2	0/5	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. 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.

Unit Descriptions	
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of disinfectant is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

For more information please contact:

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