



# 2021 Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

## OMND Water Treatment Plant

Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) vision is "People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water." Here at SWA, we take our responsibility of providing southwest North Dakota with a reliable supply of quality drinking water very seriously. Working with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we place drinking water safety at the top of our priorities. Our drive is to achieve a level of excellence that is unsurpassed in our field. This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report provides information to our customers about the quality of our drinking water. It contains a table of water quality data, definitions of terms, specific language requirements, and other information we hope you will find useful and educational.

### What is a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)?

This CCR is our annual water quality report that all community water systems are required to provide to their customers. It is based on the 1996 Amendments to the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and the right to know provisions of that Act. As a customer of Southwest Water Authority, it gives you the opportunity to review your water quality annually. It also is provided to help you make informed choices about the water you drink. The report lets you know what, if any, contaminants are in the drinking water, and how they may affect your health.



DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

EPA requires us to monitor for over 90 drinking water contaminants and those that were detected are listed in the table below. Test results are from 2021. The state does allow reduced monitoring for certain contaminants because their levels do not change significantly over time. For this reason, some of the test results are more than one year old.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (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 (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.
- Parts per billion (ppb)** – 1 ppb is equivalent to adding 1 pound of a contaminant to 999,999,999 pounds of water (about 120,000,000 gallons).
- Parts per million (ppm)** – 1 ppm is equivalent to adding 1 pound of a contaminant to 999,999 pounds of water (about 120,000 gallons).
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** – A measure of radioactivity.
- Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- N/A** – Not Applicable
- ND** – Not Detected
- NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units



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| OMND TREATMENT PLANT’S TABLE OF DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
|---|-----------|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Contaminant (units)   | MCLG      | MCL        | Level Detected | Detection Range | Test Date | Exceedance or Violation?            | Major Sources in Drinking Water   |
| Microbial Contaminants  |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)                                    | N/A       | TT = 0.3   | 0.09           | N/A             | 2021      | 100% of samples met turbidity limit | Soil runoff   |
| Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal                              |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Alkalinity (ppm) Source Water                                   | N/A       | N/A        | 172            | 141-172         | 2021      | N/A                                 | Natural erosion, plant activities, and certain industrial waste discharges  |
| Total Organic Carbon (ppm) Source Water                         | N/A       | TT         | 4.09           | 3.13-4.09       | 2021      | N/A                                 | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Total Organic Carbon (ppm) Finished Water                       | N/A       | TT         | 1.94           | 1.37-1.94       | 2021      | N/A                                 | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Inorganic Contaminants  |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Arsenic (ppb)   | 0         | 10         | 1.01           | N/A             | 2019      | No                                  | Erosion from natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                 |
| Barium (ppm)  | 2         | 2          | 0.0198         | N/A             | 2016      | No                                  | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Copper (ppm)  | 1.3       | AL = 1.3   | 0.235          | N/A             | 2019      | No sites exceeded the Action Level  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Fluoride (ppm)  | 4         | 4          | 0.77           | N/A             | 2016      | No                                  | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Lead <sup>2</sup> (ppb)   | 0         | AL = 15    | 1.01           | N/A             | 2019      | One site exceeded the Action Level  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)   | 10        | 10         | 0.047          | N/A             | 2020      | No                                  | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Disinfectants   |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Chloramines (ppm)   | MRDLG = 4 | MRDL = 4.0 | 3.4            | 3.18-3.58       | 2021      | No                                  | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| Disinfection Byproducts   |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)                                    | 0         | 60         | 14             | 8.52-13.33      | 2021      | No                                  | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)                                     | 0         | 80         | 17             | 13.73-18.71     | 2021      | No                                  | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Radioactive Contaminants  |           |            |                |                 |           |                                     |   |
| Gross Alpha, including Ra, excluding Rn & U (pCi/l)             | 15        | 15         | ND             | N/A             | 2018      | No                                  | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Radium, Combined (226, 228)(pCi/l)                              | 0         | 5          | 0.691          | N/A             | 2018      | No                                  | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Uranium, Combined (ppb)   | 0         | 30         | ND             | N/A             | 2018      | No                                  | Erosion of natural deposits   |

| SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY’S TABLE OF DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS <sup>3</sup> |      |     |                |                 |           |                          |                                 |
|---|------|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Contaminant (units)   | MCLG | MCL | Level Detected | Detection Range | Test Date | Exceedance or Violation? | Major Sources in Drinking Water |
| Alkalinity, Carbonate   | N/A  | N/A | 4              | ND - 4          | 2021      | N/A                      | N/A                             |
| Bicarbonate as HCO3 (ppm)   | N/A  | N/A | 210            | 172-210         | 2021      | N/A                      | N/A                             |

<sup>1</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Southwest Water Authority 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 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>.

<sup>3</sup> The EPA requires testing for certain unregulated contaminants, but has not established enforceable drinking water standards for them. They are monitored to determine whether or not future regulation is warranted.



The drinking water is monitored 365 days a year, 24/7 for its quality.

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## CONTAMINATION SOURCES

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. 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 can also 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

As part of a nationwide program, the North Dakota Department of Health completed an assessment of our source water and determined our water system is moderately susceptible to potential contaminant sources. They also noted, "historically, Southwest Water Authority has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water standards." Information about the Source Water Assessment can be obtained by calling 1-888-425-0241, or e-mailing us at [swa@swwater.com](mailto:swa@swwater.com).

## About SWA's Quality Water

At SWA, our highest priority is your family's health where drinking water is concerned. With that thought in mind, SWA is pleased to report that this water system was in compliance with all drinking water regulations in 2021. We want you and all of our valued customers to be informed about this water utility, therefore if you have any questions about this report or any other concerns, please contact Grace Rixen, Water Treatment Manager or Ledeanne O'Shields, CFO/Office Administrator at 888-425-0241 or e-mail us at [swa@swwater.com](mailto:swa@swwater.com).

We encourage large volume water customers to post copies of this report in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This will allow individuals who consume SWA's drinking water to learn about the water system.

## Source and Treatment

Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn's (OMND) source is surface water, obtained from the Missouri River at Renner Bay about 7 miles northeast of the treatment plant on Lake Sakakawea.

## Drinking Water Safety

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 the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). More information about drinking water is available on EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

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. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



*We are pleased to present this 2021 Water Quality Report (CCR) which demonstrates that our water quality continues to meet and/or exceed the strict water quality standards established by the EPA.*



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## Learn More

Visit our website at [www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com) to learn more about water quality. You are welcome to attend any of SWA's regularly scheduled meetings, which are generally held on the first Monday of each month. If you are interested in attending or would like to request agenda time, please contact SWA at the number listed for information on time and location. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need assistance with the appropriate language translation, please contact SWA at the number listed.