SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY

OUR VISION
People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water

OUR MISSION
Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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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 the EPA's website at 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).

So, the bottom line is this.

At Southwest Water Authority, our highest priority is your family's health when it comes to drinking water. With that thought in mind, we are pleased to report that our water system was in compliance with all drinking water regulations in 2025. We want you and all of our valued customers to be informed about our water utility. If you have any questions about this report or any other concerns, please contact Perry Grammond, Water Treatment Manager, or Ledeanna O'Shields, CFO/Office Administrator, at 888-425-0241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com. You are welcome to attend any of our 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 us at the number listed above 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 us at the number listed above. In order to allow individuals who consume our drinking water, but who do not receive water bills, to learn about our water system, we would appreciate it if our large volume water customers would post copies of this report in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees.

2025 Drinking Water Quality Report

SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY

SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT

OMND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Southwest Water Authority's vision is "People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water." 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 (NDDEQ) 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. To that end, we present our Annual Drinking Water Report. This report will provide 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.

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. The quality and condition of this water vary with lake level, spring runoff, and other factors. From the intake, raw water is pumped to two raw-water storage tanks at the OMND Water Treatment Plant site. The raw water from the tanks enters the treatment plant and runs through the pretreatment filter screens, which help to reduce suspended solids and debris from entering the Ultrafiltration modules. The Ultrafiltration process primarily removes viruses and bacteria from the water by maintaining a 4-log removal. The filtrate from the Ultrafiltration process goes to the buffer basin. A portion of the filtrate from the buffer basin is processed through Reverse Osmosis, which primarily removes dissolved solids and salts. The permeate water coming from the Reverse Osmosis is then blended at a 50/50 or 60/40 ratio with Ultrafiltered water within the contact basin. At this point, chloramines are added to reduce bacteria to a safe level and provide a residual that protects against contamination in the distribution system. Caustic soda is used to raise the pH to safe levels, and Fluoride provides resistance to tooth decay. After the proper detention time and mixing, the water is then pumped through the distribution system for delivery to you, our valued customer.

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. (Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.)

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.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the NDDEQ, 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 NDDEQ has determined that our water system is moderately susceptible to potential contaminants. They also noted that "historically, Southwest Water Authority has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water standards." Information about Source Water Assessment can be obtained by calling 1-888-425-0241, or e-mailing us at swa@swwater.com.

Detected Contaminants

EPA requires us to monitor for drinking water contaminants. Those that were detected are listed in the table below. Test results are from 2025. 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.

Observation/field at 100 Power (obsvns)

Micromhos per centimeter (umho/cm): a measure of conductivity

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detected

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal							
Alkalinity (MG/L) Source Water	N/A	N/A	168	109-168	2025	N/A	Natural erosion, plant activities, and certain industrial waste discharges
Total Organic Carbon (MG/L) Source Water	N/A	TT	3.62	2.91-3.62	2025	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (MG/L) Finished Water	N/A	TT	1.66	1.25-1.66	2025	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
Microbial Contaminants							
Turbidity[1] (NTU)	N/A	TT= 0.15	0.07	N/A	2025	100% of samples met turbidity limit	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.06	N/A	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0194	N/A	2025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	0	AL= 1.3	0.199	ND-0.218	2025	No sites exceeded the Action Level	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.834	N/A	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead[2] (ppb)	0	AL= 15	ND	ND-ND	2025	No sites exceeded the Action Level	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants							
Chloramines (ppm)	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4.0	3.3	3.02-3.5	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	0	60	11	6.03-13.15	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	0	80	16	11.16-20.59	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Southwest Water Authority's Table of Detected Unregulated Contaminants[3]

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Detection Range	Test Date	Exceedance or Violation?	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Alkalinity, Carbonate (ppm)	N/A	N/A	2	ND-2	2025	N/A	N/A
Bicarbonate as HCO3 (ppm)	N/A	N/A	204	93-204	2025	N/A	N/A
Calcium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	22.9	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Chloride (ppm)	N/A	N/A	5.51	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Conductivity @ 25C (umho/cm)	N/A	N/A	322	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Hardness, Total (as CACO3) (ppm)	N/A	N/A	95	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Magnesium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	9.21	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
PH	N/A	N/A	8.28	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Potassium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	1.64	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	32.2	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Sodium Adsorption Ratio (obsvns)	N/A	N/A	1.44	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	N/A	71	68.4-71	2025	N/A	N/A
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	N/A	N/A	188	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A
Zinc (ppm)	N/A	N/A	0.00367	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A

[1] **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system.

[2] **Lead Information**
There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Southwest Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home.

Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Southwest Water Authority at 888-425-0241. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead Service Line Inventory Information
The EPA has recently published the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The purpose of this revision is to strengthen public health protections by removing lead service lines within public water systems. One requirement of this rule revision was to inventory all drinking water service lines within our public water system and notify consumers which type of line serves each property. You have received a letter from our system with this information.

The inventory is a listing of all service lines and the material composition of each line. The types of lines being documented are Lead lines, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) and lines made of Unknown Material. Classification of a service line as being comprised of Unknown Service Line material indicates that our system cannot currently confirm the material of both the public and private portions of the line with written records. Non-lead lines were also documented; however, we were not required to notify consumers with documented non-lead lines. The classification of the type of service line serving a residence was based on historical data regarding the property and in some cases verification of the type of material on the privately owned side of the line by visual inspection or replacement records of the owner.

The current Service Line Inventory for our system has been completed and is available for viewing at our office (OR online at www.swwater.com). Please contact Southwest Water Authority at 888-425-0241 should you have any questions.

Additional work to update the service line inventory, including inspection of the line, may need to be performed to further document and confirm the type of material make up both of the public and private portions of the line serving your home or business. We will need the help of home/building owners in order to access the service line on the private side of the service line to positively identify the material of the line that carries water within your home/building. Our system may perform this work with our own system employees or we may contract with engineering firms or third-party contractors to complete this work to improve our service line inventory.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

OMND began initial monitoring for eighteen Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in 2025 in preparation for the new PFAS rule that will take effect in 2029. One sample was collected at each Entry Point to the distribution system as required, to determine if PFAS is currently in our drinking water. **None of the contaminants included in this round of sampling were detected.** Should you have any questions, please contact our office at 888-425-0241.

The water we provide is treated with fluoride addition as a part of the water treatment process to enhance dental health. For information regarding the level of fluoride in the finished water provided to our customers, please contact our office at 888-425-0241.