

Forks Municipal Water City of Forks 1998 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to the other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Forks Municipal Water is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The bottom line: Is the water safe to drink? Absolutely.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular city council meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at city hall at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Find out more about Forks Municipal Water on the Internet at [www.forkswashington.org].

Overview In 1998 Forks Municipal Water distributed over 236 million gallons of water in the Forks area. Our water comes from 5 wells, which are located from the Forks water compound at 300 Lupine Ave. to the radio station. Our water as pumped from the ground passes all state health standards for potable water. To insure that it stays clean and safe, the state requires us to add a very small amount of chlorine to kill any bacteria that could enter the system accidentally such as a water main break or a back flow situation. We are required to add a minimum of .2 ppm chlorine, which is comparable to one inch in 79 miles. In addition we take six routine water samples per month and have them tested for bacteriological contamination. Once every three years we send water to an independent lab and have it tested for at least 24 inorganic chemicals such as nickel, iron, and sodium. We test for over 60 volatile organic chemicals that are trihalomethanes such as styrene, chloroform, and butylbenzene. We test for 45 synthetic organic compounds such as naphthalene, pyrene, and PCB's. The results of the testing we have done in 1999 are reflected in the tables Mow.

How to Read This Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the minutest traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important. **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's 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.

Key To Table

AL = Action Level
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL million fibers per liter
Ppm parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
SRL State reporting level

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	SRL	Major Sources	Violations
Inorganic Contaminants								
1. Asbestos	6/7/99	MFL	7.00	7.00	<.098	7.00	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits	No
2. Nitrate	5/17/99	ppm	10.00	10.00	0.60	0.05	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from No septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
3. Fluoride	5/17/99	ppm	4.00	4.00	0.30	0.02	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
4. Sodium	5/17/99	ppm	none	none	4.00	5.00		No
5. Chloride	5/17/99	ppm	250	250	4.00	20.00		No
6. Manganese	5/17/99	ppm	.05	.05	.018	.01		No

Water - Quality Table Footnotes

1. The amount of asbestos in our water is far below the maximum level of 7 MFL.
2. The state reporting level of nitrate is 0.5 ppm and the maximum level is 10.0 ppm.
3. The Forks Water Dept. raises the flouride level in our water to about 1.0 ppm for the dental health of children.
4. The state reporting level of sodium is 5 ppm. There is no MCL listed.

5. The chloride level in our water was 4mg/L, which is below the state reporting level and far below the maximum level of 250 mg/L.

6. The state reporting level on manganese is 0.01 ppm and the maximum level is 0.05 ppm.

Explanation of Violations

No violations occurred in 1998

Unregulated Contaminants

Forks Municipal Water did not test for Radon

Required Additional Health Information

TO ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 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: (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 be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics 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. 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). This report was prepared by the Forks Water Dept. For more information, call Forks Municipal Water at (360) 374-5412. Learn more about the Forks Municipal Water system at [www.forkswashington.org].