P.O. Box 339
104 S. Sansome Street
Philipsburg, MT 59858
PHONE: 406-859-3821

Town of Philipsburg

September 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter acknowledges that the Town of Philipsburg has not yet met the regulatory requirements for the construction of a water filtration facility to address disinfecting byproducts in the water.

The Town is now under an administrative court order to establish scheduling to address the problem and is currently seeking funding to address this issue.

We are mandated by law to inform the public about these exceedances. An explanation by the Department of Environmental Quality is contained within this correspondence. As stated in this letter, this is NOT an emergency but a formal notification of the exceedances, wherein it is stated that it is NOT necessary for customers to boil their water. Please reference important information about your drinking water.

This notice is being mailed out June 22, 2026, for the second quarter violations and posted concurrently on the Town of Philipsburg's website.

If you have any questions please call 406-859-3821. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Fillmore

Mayor Anne Fillmore

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINNKING WATER
Town Of Philipsburg Public Water System
Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

The Philipsburg public water system utilizes Fred Burr Lake as one of its water sources. The Fred Burr Lake Treatment Facility does not provide filtration treatment. Public water systems that utilize a surface water source are required to provide filtration and disinfection treatment. Filtration treatment is not required if filtration avoidance criteria are met. The Philipsburg public water system has met disinfection requirements but has failed to meet filtration avoidance criteria. This failure was caused by disinfection byproduct (Haloacetic Acid) exceedances.

On September 11, 2023, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality notified the Town of Philipsburg that they were required to install filtration treatment or find a new source within 18 months to comply with surface water treatment rules. The Town of Philipsburg has been unable to install filtration treatment within this timeframe.

Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

What should I do?

- Disinfection treatment for the Fred Burr water source has met disinfection requirements. Boiling water is NOT recommended at this time.
- If you have specific health concerns, please seek advice about drinking water from your health care provider.

What does this mean?

- This is NOT an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. The installation of filtration treatment is required due to disinfection byproduct (Haloacetic Acid) exceedances.

Steps We Are Taking:

The Town has switched the disinfectant process related to chlorine from gas to liquid. This will also include the installation of new computerized chlorine analyzers which will deliver greater accuracy in terms of dosing. The Town has also increased the percentage of spring water and decreased the percentage of lake water used in the blending process of the water that is delivered to customers. The Town will continue to pursue all possibilities related to the grant application process for funding of design for potential filtration obligations. The Town is making progress on design for a filtration system.

Town of Philipsburg – PO Box 339, Philipsburg MT 59858 – 406.859.3821

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Philipsburg. PWS ID#: MT0000304
Method and Date distributed: USPS, September 15, 2026

DEQ
Montana Department
of Environmental Quality

18 August 2026

TOWN OF PHILIPSBURG TOWN OF
ATTN ANNE FILLMORE
PO BOX 339
PHILIPSBURG MT 59858

Re: Treatment Technique Violation – Failure to Install Filtration Treatment; June, July and August 2026 Philipsburg Town of, PWSID# MT0000304, Class C

Dear Mayor Fillmore,

This violation letter is to inform you that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has documented that the town of Philipsburg is in violation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). The Town of Philipsburg is in violation of ARM 17.38.208 for the months of June, July, and August of 2026 for failing to install filtration treatment within 18 months of being notified that the public water system has lost its filtration avoidance status and requires surface water treatment which meets treatment technique requirements.

In a letter dated September 11, 2023, the department notified the town of Philipsburg that the public water system no longer meets filtration avoidance criteria due to disinfection byproduct exceedances and therefore must install filtration treatment for the Fred Burr water source that satisfies the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rules (SWTR) within 18 months of the date of the letter or physically disconnect and discontinue the use of the source. The town of Philipsburg was in violation of the Surface Water Treatment Rules in March 2025 and has continued to be in violation up to the date of this letter.

It is recognized that the Town of Philipsburg has obtained the services of an engineer and is working towards installing filtration treatment. The Town of Philipsburg is also working with the department to return to compliance.

This violation requires public notification in accordance with ARM 17.38.239. Public notification requirements are being met through the continuous posting of public notice. Public notification is required to be repeated quarterly until the town of Philipsburg is no longer in violation per ARM 17.38.239. Public notification is required to be submitted to the department within 10 days of posting the public notice.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have other relevant information, documentation, or any questions you would like to discuss, please contact me at (406) 444-7251 or Joshua.seekins@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Josh Seekins
Surface Water Treatment Rule Manager
Public Water Supply Section
PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
406-444-7251, (fax) 406-444-1374, Joshua.seekins@mt.gov

CC: Helena PWS file
Granite County Sanitarian
Scott Patterson MT DEQ PWSB Rule Coordinator SPatterson@mt.gov
Paige Tolleson MT DEQ PWSB DBP Rule Manager paige.tolleson@mt.gov