



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

Town of Philipsburg

June 10, 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,

Mayor Anne Fillmore





8 June 2026

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

Re: Treatment Technique Violation – Failure to Install Filtration Treatment; March, April and May 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 March, April and May 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.

To return your system to compliance, your public water system must install filtration treatment for the Fred Burr water source that satisfies the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) or disconnect and discontinue the use of the source. Please be advised that any alterations or modifications to a public water supply system must meet the requirements of ARM 17.38.101 which states that a person may not commence construction, alteration, extension or operation of a public water supply system until the applicant has submitted a design report along with the necessary plans and specifications for the system to DEQ for its review and approval.

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



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Town of Philipsburg MT0000304

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report please contact **Ed Roseboom** at (406) 859-3455.

Public Participation Opportunities: Town council meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Sources of 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.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number 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 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 healthcare providers. EPA/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).

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Information for Town of Philipsburg which is classified as a *Surface Water* system

The source water assessment report for your water system provides additional information on your source water's susceptibility to contamination. To access this report please go to:

<https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater>

On the webpage scroll down and look under the subtitle "Montana Source Water Protection Viewer" and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called "Source Water Reports" at the top.

Town of Philipsburg utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
SPRING MONTANA SILVER SPRING	Spring
INTAKE 1 FRED BURR LAKES	Source Water Intake

Water Quality Test Results Definitions

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of 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 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Measure of the radioactivity in water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): SMCLs are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2025	1.3	1.3	0.44	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2025	0	15	1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant Group: Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2025	2.20	.58 – 2.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
<p>The chlorine highest level detected reflects the highest running annual average calculated each month during the CCR year. The range is the min/max of the monthly average during the CCR year.</p>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2025	63	34 - 60	No goal for the total	60	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	70	58 - 63	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2025	4	4 - 4	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride	2020	0.3610	.361 - .361	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	0.07	.07 - .07	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

Turbidity

	Date	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement (NTU)	2025	5.0 NTU	0.507 NTU	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2025	1.0 NTU	100%	10	Soil runoff

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.

Violations

Violation for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
MCL, LRAA	01/01/2025 to 03/31/2025	03-10-2025	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

This violation was returned to compliance when one quarter without an additional MCL violation was achieved.

MCL, LRAA	04/01/2025 to 06/30/2025	04-28-2025	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
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This violation was returned to compliance when one quarter without an additional MCL violation was achieved.

Violation for Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR)

The Surface Water Treatment Rule seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by viruses, Legionella, and Giardia lamblia. The rule requires that water systems filter and disinfect water from surface water sources to reduce the occurrence of unsafe levels of these microbes.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	03/01/2025 to 03/31/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.

The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	04/01/2025 to 04/30/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.
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The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	05/01/2025 to 05/31/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.
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The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	06/01/2025 to 06/30/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.
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The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	07/01/2025 to 07/31/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.
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The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR)	08/01/2025 to 08/31/2025	OPEN	We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.
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The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR) 09/01/2025 to 09/30/2025 OPEN

We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.

The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.

FAILURE TO FILTER (SWTR) 10/01/2025 to 10/31/2025 OPEN

We are required to filter the water we supply for your consumption. However, we have not yet installed a filtration system.

The water system failed to filter surface water so the violation is still outstanding.