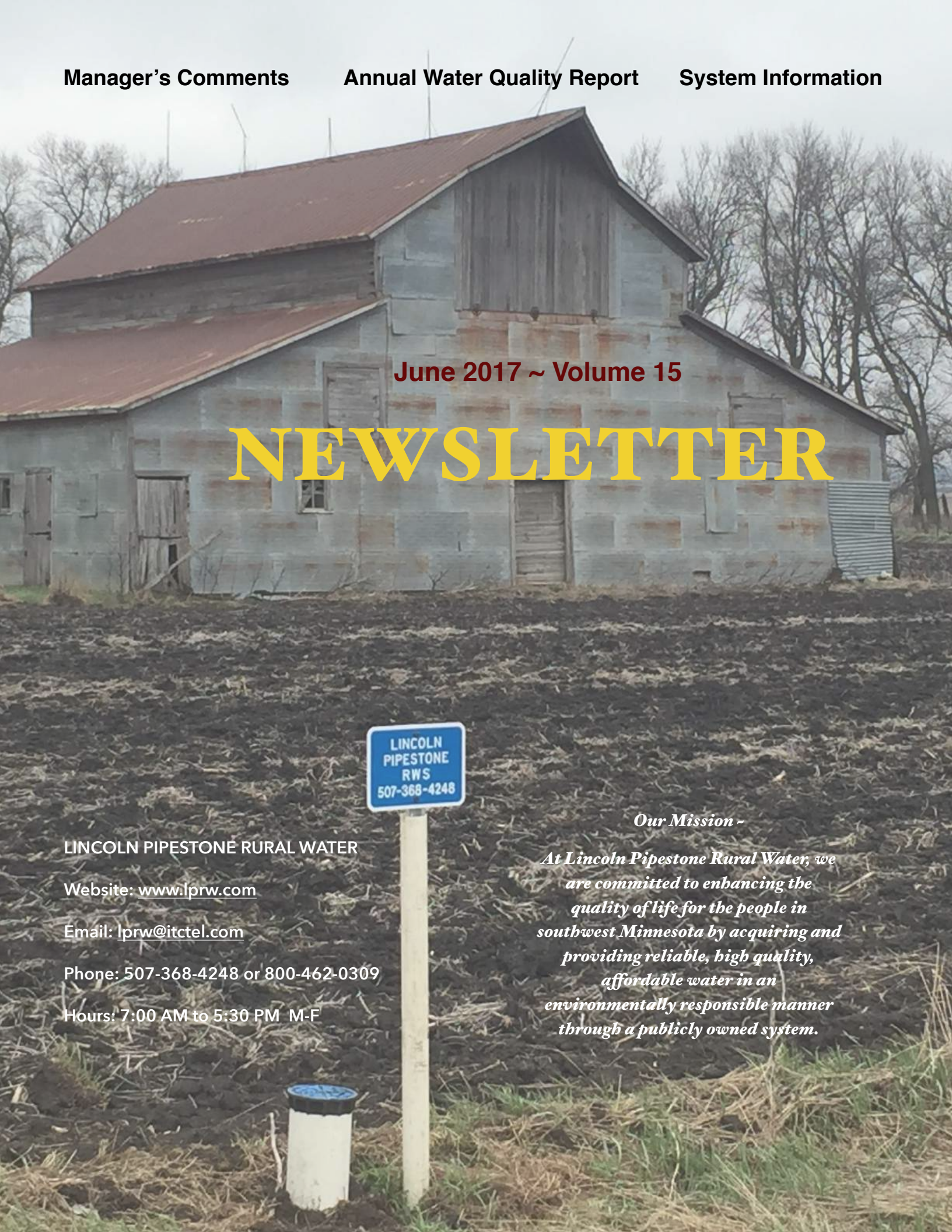
Manager's Comments Annual Water Quality Report System Information



June 2017 ~ Volume 15

NEWSLETTER

LINCOLN PIPESTONE RURAL WATER

Website: www.lprw.com

Email: lprw@itctel.com

Phone: 507-368-4248 or 800-462-0309

Hours: 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM M-F

Our Mission -

At Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for the people in southwest Minnesota by acquiring and providing reliable, high quality, affordable water in an environmentally responsible manner through a publicly owned system.

Manager's Comments

Welcome everyone to the 2017 Newsletter. In this publication you will find a variety of information about the activities of Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) System, the quality of water we provide and the people responsible for keeping you in service.

After 27 years in the making, the connection to Lewis and Clark (L&C) Regional Water System is at our doorstep. In fact, we are currently utilizing L&C water to flush our newly installed 22-mile long pipeline to our newly constructed pump station and reservoirs located just north of the city of Edgerton. Once these projects are complete and L&C has finalized construction of some key facilities, LPRW will be utilizing this great water source for its southern customer base. This is expected to occur at the end of this year or early 2018. This project was a big undertaking: in size, complexity and financially. We need to credit our board, staff and consultants; as well as L&C for making this "early connection" concept come to fruition. We also need to thank the State of Minnesota Legislators for recognizing the value water brings to southwest Minnesota by providing advance funding for the L&C project.

In the northern portion of our system, there is a moratorium in place applied to our Burr Service Area prohibiting any new, or expanded, large rural hookups. LPRW is experiencing increasing water demands that are occurring earlier in the calendar year, than in past years, for this area. In response, our board is aggressively pursuing additional water sources in this region to meet those demands and still provide capacity for the future.

We have recently completed our first phase of capital improvement projects that involved improvements to our distribution system. These included helping with flow and pressure issues; improvements in pumps and controls at the Verdi and Holland wellfields; and the completion of our expanded Verdi wellfield into South Dakota, bringing two new production wells online.

Likely the biggest change that our customers will see is the transition from a self-read metering system to an automatic meter reading (AMR) system. This project is anticipated to begin later in 2017. Customers will be receiving notification as to the deployment of the AMR units and the replacement of old meters by our field staff. The readings will automatically be sent to our office and incorporated on a bill that will be mailed out. In turn, the customer will also have access to a web page to view individual usage through their meter.

I would like to welcome the two newest members of our organization: Barbara Powell and Keith Engelkes. Barb will fill the role of billing clerk, taking the reins from Connie Bressler as she enters retirement. Barb brings a strong background to this position, as well as her experience going through an AMR-billing transition. Keith Engelkes has been hired as our newest Water System Operator. Keith has a strong construction background and is familiar to rural water systems. Welcome aboard Barb and Keith!

Finally, I would like to thank Connie Bressler for the dedicated service to our customers (and fellow staff) and the commitment of 25 years to this organization. She has helped many people with their billing needs and other water service issues. Thank you Connie!

Jason Overby

2017 Water Rates

Effective June 1, 2017 - Payable July 1, 2017

$29.53 - Minimum rate, no water used
$2.51 per thousand 0 to 5,000
$2.58 per thousand 5,001 to 10,000
$2.63 per thousand 10,001 to 20,000
$2.68 per thousand for every thousand above 20,000

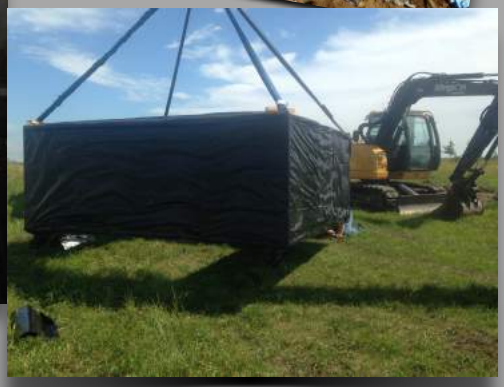
Please refer to the Retail Water Rates card in your billing packet for further information or look on our website www.lprw.com under the billing tab, or call the LPRW office if you have any questions.

Capacity Charges

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System has recently conducted an evaluation of monthly customer usage between the years 2015 and 2016 for all of its water service accounts. This evaluation was performed to determine average monthly water usage across user types; total purchased capacities within a water supply area, and the system as a whole; and to determine if any exceedances of purchased capacities by individual accounts are occurring. The results of this analysis helps LPRW determine current usage trends and current levels of appropriations to meet the needs of its customer base. **There will be a $5 per 1000 gal. penalty for water used in excess of assigned capacity.**

A letter has been generated and will be distributed to all of our customers explaining this information in greater detail. If you need further information or have any questions please contact our office.

2017 Construction Snapshots



LPRW's Two Newest Staff Members

Keith Engelkes was hired in June 2017, as a Water System Operator for the North part of our system.

Barb Powell was hired in May 2017, as the new Billing Clerk.

LPRW STAFF

Back row L-R: Josh Gums (Water System Operator), Jason Overby (General Manager), Jared Beck (Water Resources/GIS Tech.), Shawn Nelson (North Supervisor), Tom Muller (South Supervisor), Ron Carr (Maintenance Tech.)

Middle row L-R: Pat McCarthy (Water System Operator), Jay Stuefen (Treatment Plant Operator), Roger Rasmussen (Treatment Plant Operator), Don Drietz (Water System Operator), David Maras (Water System Operator), Keith Engelkes (Water System Operator)

Front row L-R: Barb Powell (Water System Clerk - Billing), Karen Petersen (Water System Clerk - Accounts Payable), Jodi Greer (Enterprise Technician)

Not Pictured-Jeremy Rost (Water System Operator) and Steve Lovre (Maintenance Tech.)

Connie Bressler's Retirement

A workplace is never quite the same when someone like you departs. Your commitment will truly be missed! Words cannot express our gratitude for your contributions and the wisdom you brought to our daily lives.

You will always be remembered for your hard work and dedication.

Have fun. We wish you nothing but the best for you on your new adventure.

Thank you for your 25 years of service to LPRW!

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System
2016 Drinking Water Report
PWSD: 1410007

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2016. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System provides drinking water to its residents from the following groundwater sources:

- Purchases treated water from Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System and the Osceola Rural Water System - North.
- 25 wells ranging from 32 to 453 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian and Quaternary Water Table aquifers.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call 1-800-462-0309 if you have questions about the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2016. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

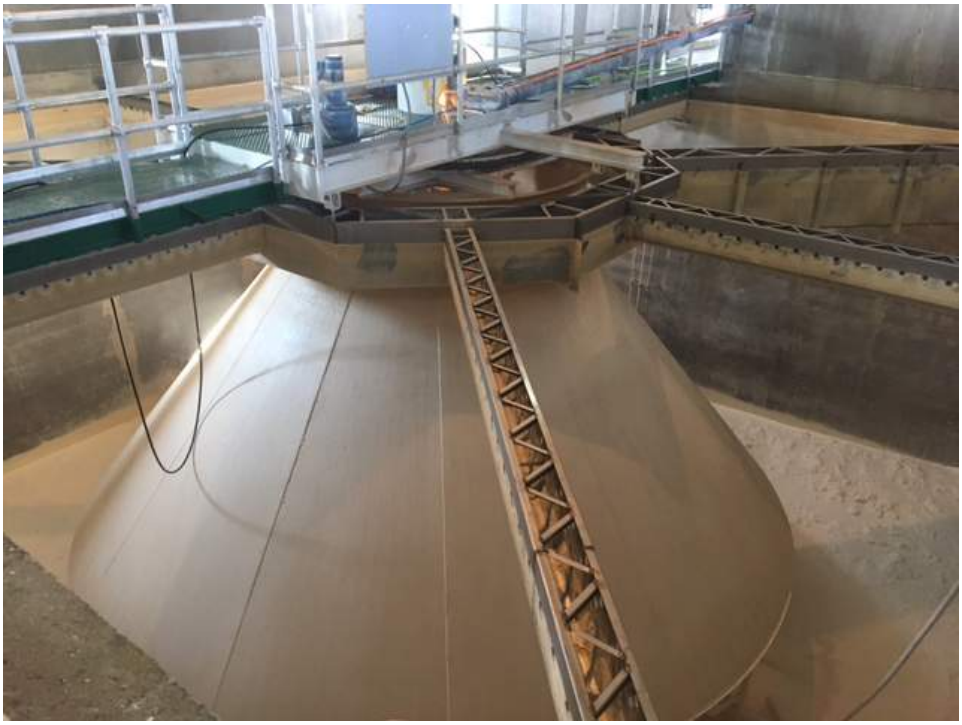
ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

nd—No Detection.

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Burr Water Treatment Plant Contact Basin



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2016)	Average/ Result*	
Arsenic (ppb) (11/13/2013)	0	10	N/A	1.86	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm) (11/13/2013)	2	2	N/A	.01	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.37-1.1	.66	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	4-24.5	20.25	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	nd-7.1	7.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	9.2-40.8	32.68	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1-1.6	1.29	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.
*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (08/30/2013)	1.3	1.3	1.03	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (08/30/2013)	0	15	4.7	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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.

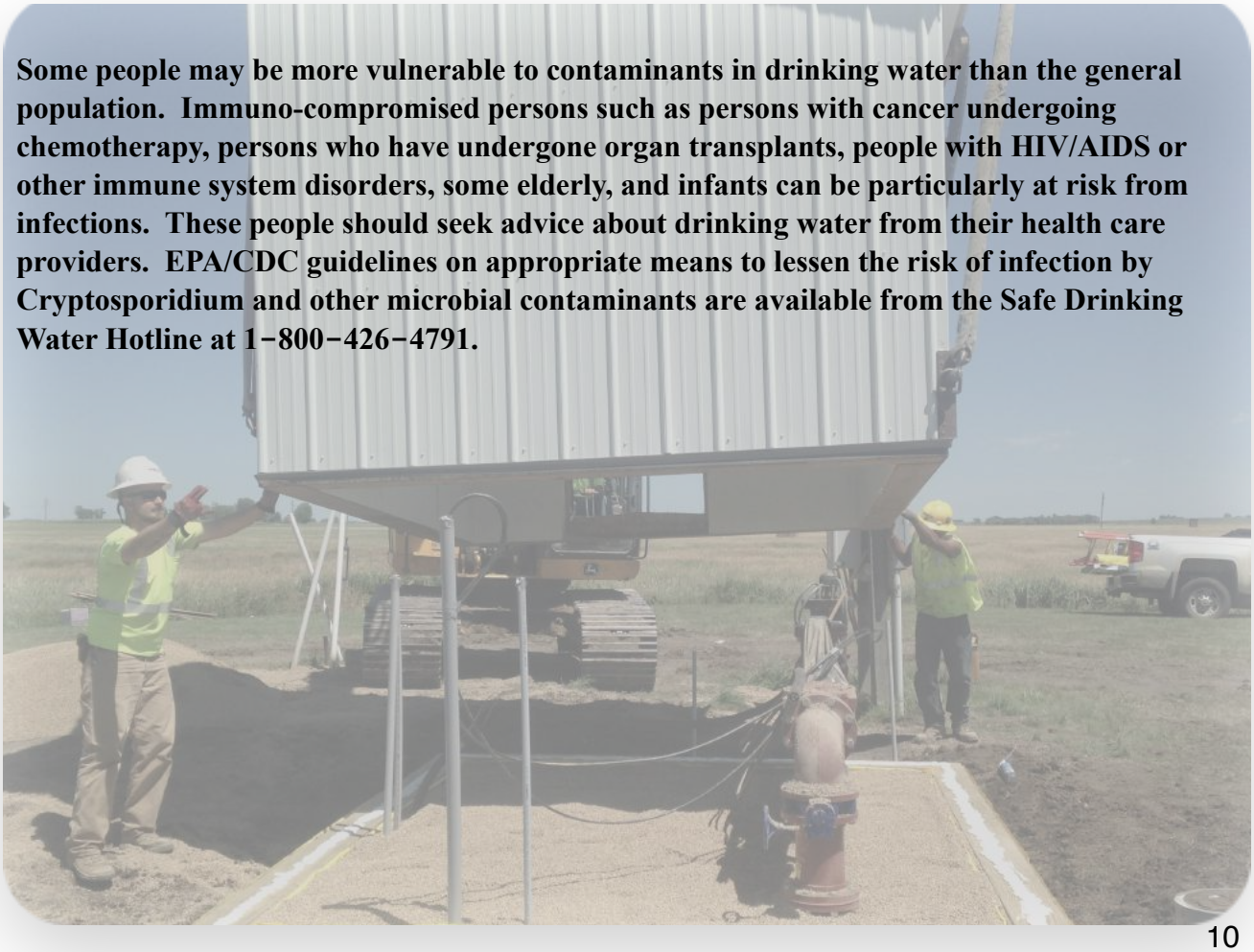
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally−occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

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 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1−800−426−4791.



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. 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 at 1−800−426−4791.

Wellhead Protection Efforts

By Jared Beck

Water Resources / GIS Technician

It's that time of year again. Construction is underway and equipment is moving in the fields. And though we have plenty of construction either wrapping up or starting here at LPRW, we also have several wellhead protection efforts that are underway.

Many of our customers may not know much about our efforts or the treatment process that is involved with the water that comes from their tap, but it can be a very expensive and painstaking process. It is ultimately our job to try to find avenues at which we can better protect that precious commodity that many of us take for granted.

One of our mechanisms, which we are extremely excited about it, is the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant we received from the State of Minnesota for the acquisition of land for wellhead protection. With this grant, we are and have been engaged with landowners around our Verdi Wellhead Protection Area to purchase land that will help protect the aquifer from rising nitrates. The Verdi wellfield is a gem and we would like to keep it that way so we are currently working on protecting as much of it as we can. The best part about the grant is that if we are successful in using it, we are welcome to reapply and can continue this process until complete wellhead protection has occurred.

As we move further into construction season, we also get closer to receiving Lewis and Clark water. This is highly anticipated, as we have been waiting for the better part of two decades to receive it. This water will be used to take pressure off our Holland Treatment Plant, as we will be losing our ability to treat for nitrates there with the removal of our reverse osmosis skids. It's extremely bittersweet, on one hand we welcome the arrival of Lewis and Clark water and on the other hand we completely lose our North Holland Wellfield and part of the South Holland wellfield due to high nitrates in the drinking water. Water is an extremely precious commodity and losing an entire wellfield is a tough pill for all of us to swallow. Hopefully, soon, we can find a different treatment process that will allow us to once again pump those higher nitrate wells. Until then, many in the Holland service area will be drinking water from South Dakota.

The last effort I would like to discuss is our Wellhead Protection Plan. We have been diligently putting the plan together and hope to have it all buttoned up by December of this year. The plan is extremely large and often confusing but it is a necessary evil to apply for state funds and mechanisms which can help with wellhead protection. We are currently on a waiting list for a Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Grant which we hope to secure sometime in July. With this grant, we hope to incentivize those producers within our three highly vulnerable wellfields in both Lincoln and Pipestone Counties, who choose to plant cover crops. Laura Debeer, the water resource technician, who has been tasked with working with hundreds of producers in several counties in Southwest Minnesota through SWCD, has done an outstanding job at outreach and is trying to pitch cover crops. Though cover crops are just one way we can better protect our groundwater supply, they are relatively new to the area, and hopefully we can find a way to better integrate them into our rotations as well as find a way to make it worthwhile in the pocket book.

Though we will undoubtedly get busier as summer rolls on, protecting our precious resources should continue to be on all our minds. We are far from achieving complete wellhead protection here at LPRW, but I think we have created a great foundation.

Quality On Tap!
Our Commitment Our Profession

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