

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Kulm, North Dakota

### 2016

We're pleased to present to you this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is purchased ground water from Southeast Water Users District, West System.

Southeast Water Users District has a wellhead protection plan available from their office that provides more information, such as potential contaminant and land use inventories. This is available by request from the main office.

Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Health has determined that our source water is "*moderately susceptible*" to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Angie Holmgren, City Auditor, at 701-647-2451. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Kulm Community Center. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Angie at the number listed above.

The city of Kulm would appreciate it if large volume water customers post copies of the *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report* in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

The city of Kulm routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for radioactive contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 storm water, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Not applicable (NA), No Detect (ND)**

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ )** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** - Pico curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

## 2016 TEST RESULTS FOR THE CITY OF KULM, ND & SOUTHEAST WUD (WEST)

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Units	Range	Date (year)	Violation Yes/No Other Info	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants (Southeast WUD)</b>								
Arsenic	0	10	1.85	ppb	N/A	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate-Nitrite	10	10	0.38	ppm	N/A	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead/Copper (Kulm)</b>								
Copper**	1.3	AL=1.3	.486 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value	ppm	N/A	2016	1 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*	0	AL=15	No Detect	ppb	N/A	2016	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products (TTHM/HAA5) (Kulm)</b>								
HAA5	N/A	60	6	ppb	N/A	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	N/A	80	48	ppb	N/A	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfectants (Kulm)</b>								
Chlorine	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4.0	1.2	ppm	0.24 to 2.0	2016	No	Water additive used to control microbes

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

\*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. The city of Kulm is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 drinking 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>.

\*\*Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period 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.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table on page 3, are the only contaminants detected in your drinking 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

Tampering with a public water system is a federal offense. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement immediately.

Please call Angie Holmgren, City Auditor, at 701-647-2451 if you have questions concerning your city's water system.

The City of Kulm works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

**Quality  
On Tap!**  
**Our Commitment**  **Our Profession**