



Water Quality  
Report for  
2011

**N**orth Star Utility is pleased to provide you with its annual Water Quality Report. The Report is a review of data compiled in 2011 for more than 300 potential contaminants. Included are details of your water source, what's in your water, and how it compares to EPA and Wyoming state health standards. North Star Utility is committed to keeping you informed on the excellent services and quality of water we deliver to you and appreciates you taking the time to learn the facts about your water.

## BACKGROUND

North Star Utility, which is privately owned, was recognized as a public water utility by the Wyoming Public Service Commission in November 2005 and began providing service to its customers in late 2008. Currently, the utility provides water (as well as sanitary wastewater) service to homes and businesses located in the Alpine Meadows Subdivision, Flying Saddle Lodge Resort, and portions of the Snake River Junction Subdivision. North Star Utility constructed a 540,000-gallon capacity water storage reservoir, which is located near Alpine, Wyoming on property owned by the U.S. National Forest Service. North Star is already permitted for the construction of a second storage reservoir when the demand necessitates it. The utility's water treatment facility is located at the Flying Saddle Lodge Resort. The utility's chief operator and back-up operator have Level One certifications in water treatment and distribution.



## WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that public water systems provide customers with a water quality report that summarizes water quality information for the previous calendar year. The Water Quality Report is available to all customers by July 1 of every year.

## IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

North Star is pleased to report that the drinking water it provides to its customers meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. To maintain our commitment to always provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, North Star Utility monitors your drinking water for contaminants according to federal and state laws.

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The sources of both bottled and tap drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. North Star's water source comes from two wells located at Flying Saddle Lodge, a resort/restaurant/lounge located north of the junction of U.S. Highways 26 and 89 near Alpine, Wyoming. The wells, which produce a combined *minimum* of approximately 250 gallons per minute, draw water from the Snake River Alluvial Aquifer.

## IS THERE ANYTHING IN MY WATER?

As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some of these substances and/or contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. The water can pick up substances as:

- i. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations, and wildlife.
- ii. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- iii. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- iv. Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.
- v. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, please call the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The table that follows shows the results of North Star Utility's testing and monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011. In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, the following definitions are provided:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*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 (ug/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)* – a measure of radioactivity.

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - 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 Contaminant Level (MCL)* - 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.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA establishes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by the public water systems. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. The MCLs are set such that out of every 10,000 or 1,000,000 people (depending upon how the MCL was developed) drinking 2 liters of water every day for a lifetime, only one of those people may experience the described health effect. The Food and Drug Administration established limits for contaminants in bottled water.

**TESTING & MONITORING RESULTS for NORTH STAR UTILITY – 2011**

**Source Name: Flying Saddle Lodge Wells #1 and #2**

**Origin: Groundwater**

**Treatment: Chlorination**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
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**Microbiological Contaminants**

Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0	Positive or Negative	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform and <i>E.coli</i>	No	0	Positive or Negative	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	Human and animal fecal waste

**Nitrate (NO3)**

Nitrate (as Nitrogen)*	No	1.4	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tank, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
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*\* Nitrates: As a precaution, North Star Utility will always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply*

**Radioactive Contaminants - Not Required to Sample in 2011**

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Barium	No	0.3	mg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharged from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Flouride	No	0.3	mg/L	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

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### Synthetic Organic Contaminants, including Pesticides and Herbicides—

**No Detects or Violations**

### Volatile Organic Contaminants

Trihalomethanes	No	0.80	ug/L	80	80	Naturally occurring organic material found in water, such as decaying vegetation, react-
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### Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products—No Detects or Violations

### Lead and Copper Tap Sampling

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	90th Percentile	Action Level (AL)	Number of Samples Above Action Level (AL)
Lead**	No	Range 0.002 - 0.020	mg/L	0.011 mg/L	0.015 mg/L	One
Copper	No	Range 0.03 - 0.54	mg/L	0.335 mg/L	1.3 mg/L	None

**\*\* Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced. 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

As you can see from the table above, North Star learned through its testing and monitoring that some contaminants have been detected but the EPA has determined that the water North Star provides is **SAFE** at these levels. Please remember the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk, although 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, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS, or other immune disorders, some elderly and infants could be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA's and Center for Disease Control's Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium, as well as other microbiological contaminants and potential health effects, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOME!

North Star Utility wants its customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Lisa Paddleford at 307-654-6787 or via electronic mail at [info@northstarutility.com](mailto:info@northstarutility.com). If you are interested in learning more about your water utility, please visit our website [www.northstarutility.com](http://www.northstarutility.com) or attend North Star's annual meeting, scheduled every second Thursday of May at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Meridian Group, located at 330 North Glenwood Street, Jackson, Wyoming.

Thank you for allowing North Star to continue providing you and your family with clean, quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, and possibly expand our service area, we may need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for your understanding should this occur.

It is North Star Utility's priority to provide a superior quality of 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.

Best regards,



Michael T. Halpin

President – North Star Utility