

Public Notice for Butte-Silver Bow Water System – MT0000170 – (June 2011)

Butte-Silver Bow has violated a drinking water standard – 2nd quarter of 2011.

The standard (Maximum Contaminant Level) exceeded is for haloacetic acids. The measured level of the Butte water is **not a concern for the short term** and the water is safe to drink. If this was an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours by your public water supply system. However, if this level of haloacetic acids remains in the Butte drinking water for several more years, a potential health risk could be a concern.

The five compounds that make up haloacetic acids represent one of the two groups of disinfection byproducts monitored in drinking water that has been disinfected with chlorine. The potential exists for the formation of a few compounds, carcinogenic in nature, that can be created when chlorinated water reacts with naturally occurring organic compounds.

The standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for haloacetic acids is set at 60 micrograms per liter of water. The compliance value is calculated from the yearly average measurements and compared to the MCL of 60 ug/l. At this time, that number for the Butte water is 63 ug/l.

What should you do?

Customers **do not have to boil** their water or take any other type of corrective action for the present time. However, people may want to consult with their healthcare provider about drinking the water if they have a severely compromised immune system or are in poor health. It is also advised that women in their first trimester of pregnancy may want to consider another source for drinking water, for the short term.

What is being done?

Butte-Silver Bow Water has been working on correcting this problem and bringing its drinking water quality back into compliance. This can be done by reduction of the organic compounds in the water. Periods of high run-offs have an extreme influence on the amount of total organic carbon in the water, thus causing high disinfection byproduct formation. To prevent their formation, natural organic compounds must be removed before the water is treated with chlorine. New treatment techniques are being studied and reviewed to see what method will best fit the Butte water treatment process to get maximum organic removal.

This notice is being sent to you by Butte-Silver Bow Water. For additional information, please call the water treatment plant at 406-723-9429.