2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report: TM Rural Water District

1. A Legacy of Excellence: Message to Our Customers

At TM Rural Water District, we view transparency not merely as a regulatory obligation, but as a fundamental pillar of our service to the community. This annual report is a primary tool for public accountability and a testament to the operational success and dedication of our technical staff. We operate under the firm conviction that informed customers are our best allies in maintaining the integrity and resilience of our water system.

We are honored to announce that the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has presented the District with the **Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence**. This distinction recognizes a significant milestone: twenty-four consecutive years of providing safe, high-quality drinking water to our public. This document provides a comprehensive "snapshot" of our water quality from January 1 to December 31, 2025, detailing our water sources, advanced treatment methodologies, and our rigorous compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. Maintaining this level of excellence begins with the uncompromising management of the District's natural water resources.

2. Water Sources and Resource Management

The cornerstone of a secure water supply is a multi-barrier approach, wherein source water protection acts as the first and most critical line of defense. By proactively managing our raw water sources, we create a defensive layer that ensures the high quality of the finished product long before it reaches our treatment facility.

The District manages a diverse geological portfolio to meet the water needs of our service area. Our primary supply consists of groundwater drawn from local wells within two specific aquifers:

- **The Dolton Aquifer:** Located near Dolton, South Dakota, this was the District's original source and remains a critical component of our supply.
- **The Upper Vermillion Missouri (UVM) Aquifer:** Also referred to as the Basal Aquifer, this is our largest source and is geographically situated below the Dolton Aquifer in several locations.

Our infrastructure currently serves more than 1,750 rural residences. We also provide wholesale water to the communities of Canistota, Hurley, Marion, and Viborg, as well as a regional ethanol plant. In 2025, the District produced and distributed an average of 1,744,000 gallons of water per day to meet these demands. State assessments rate our source water as having a "Low" susceptibility to contamination. To ensure consistent volume and reliability, our treated ground water supply is supplemented and blended with water purchased from the BY Water District and the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, further strengthening system resiliency.

3. Additional Information from the EPA

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 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.

4. Regulatory Framework and Key Definitions

To protect public health and ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes legally enforceable regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. Similarly, FDA regulations establish limits for bottled water to provide equivalent protection.

Terms You Should Know:

- **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 allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **RAA (Running Annual Average):** A compliance calculation based on the average of all samples taken during the monitoring year.
- **Turbidity (NTU):** Nephelometric Turbidity Units; a measure of water clarity.

Measurement Units:

- **ppm:** parts per million (milligrams per liter)
- **ppb:** parts per billion (micrograms per liter)
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **pspm:** positive samples per month
- **ug/l:** micrograms per liter (equivalent to ppb)

5. 2025 Table of Detected Contaminants for TM Rural Water District

The following tables list the contaminants detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these substances at the levels reported does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the date presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitorfor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, thought representative of water quality, is more than one year old.

TM Rural Water District participated in the EPA's UCMR5 sampling program in 2025 and this report is being used as public notice. Any detected unregulated contaminants have been included in this report.

Detected Contaminants

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Tested	MCL (or AL)	MCLG	Major Source
Copper (90th%)	0.1 ppm	N/A	09/10/25	AL=1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (90th%)	1 ppb	N/A	09/11/25	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Antimony	0.26 ppb	0.26 - 0.26	10/12/22	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Antimony*	0.35 ppb	0.35 - 0.35	05/16/22	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic	2.00 ppb	2.00 - 2.00	10/12/22	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Arsenic**	1.00 ppb	1.00 - 1.00	03/18/25	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	0.0154 ppm	0.0154 - 0.0154	10/12/22	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium*	0.0154 ppm	0.0154 - 0.0154	05/16/22	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium**	0.0102 ppm	0.0102 - 0.0102	03/18/25	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.

Chromium	0.59 ppb	0.59 - 0.59	10/12/22	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium*	0.35 ppb	0.35 - 0.35	05/16/22	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium**	0.74 ppb	0.74 - 0.74	03/18/25	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.60 ppm	0.60 - 0.60	11/18/25	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Fluoride*	0.90 ppm	0.45 - 0.90	02/24/25	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Fluoride**	0.85 ppm	0.49 - 0.85	10/14/25	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)	19.7 ppb	N/A	09/24/25	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)*	20.05 ppb	N/A	12/10/25	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Mercury (Inorganic)**	0.11 ppb	0.11 - 0.11	03/18/25	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries/factories; landfill/cropland runoff.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)**	0.3 ppm	N/A	06/23/25	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	3.70 ppb	3.70 - 3.70	10/12/22	50	50	Discharge from petroleum/metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Selenium*	1.80 ppb	1.80 - 1.80	05/16/22	50	50	Discharge from petroleum/metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Selenium**	1.00 ppb	1.00 - 1.00	03/18/25	50	50	Discharge from petroleum/metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Total Coliform*	4 samples	N/A	2025	1 pspm	0	Naturally present in the environment.
TTHM (RAA)	33.7 ppb	N/A	09/24/25	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (RAA)*	41.35 ppb	N/A	12/10/25	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Turbidity*	0.13 NTU	100% <0.3	01/01/25	TT	N/A	Soil runoff.

** Denotes test results from BY Water District. ** Denotes test results from Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.*

Detected Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR5)

Substance	Level Detected	Range	Date Tested	Units
Lithium	95	73 - 95	06/11/24	ug/l (ppb)

6. Health Advisories and Consumer Protection

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these substances does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, certain populations must take additional precautions.

Immuno-Compromised Populations Some individuals may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population and can be particularly at risk from infections. This includes persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants. These individuals should seek advice from their health care providers regarding drinking water and follow EPA/CDC guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants.

Lead in Drinking Water 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. TM Rural Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing.

- **Actionable Step:** 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. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791
- **Lead Service Line Inventory:** We are currently conducting a comprehensive inventory to identify households served by lead service lines as requested by the EPA. Please contact our office for more information regarding this initiative.

7. Community Participation and Contact Information

TM Rural Water District is committed to the highest standards of safety and transparency. We believe that public participation is essential to the successful governance of our water system. We encourage all customers to read this report and stay involved in the District's future.

Directory for Questions:

- **Primary Technical Contact:** Mr. Jay Jorgensen at (605) 297-3334.
- **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** (800) 426-4791.
- **Information on Lead:** www.epa.gov/safewater/lead
- **Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR):** https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr

TM Rural Water District firmly believes that it is important that our users read and fully understand this yearly report. We would encourage anyone that has any questions or concerns to contact the TM Rural Water District Office during normal business hours at 605-297-3334.