

# RUTH WATER DISTRICT

## Consumer Confidence Report – 2024

### Covering Calendar Year – 2023

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. **For more information please contact KURT CARSON at 775-235-7701.**

Our drinking water is supplied from another water system through a Consecutive Connection (CC). To find out more about our drinking water sources and additional chemical sampling results, please contact our office at the number provided above. Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
We receive our water from an intertie with Ely Water System.	

We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the source water assessment, please contact us.

#### Message from EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those 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 (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

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

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system tested a minimum of 1 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

#### Water Quality Data

The tables following below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1- December 31, 2023. The state requires us to monitor for 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, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**



## Terms & Abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s 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. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 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. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**Parts per Million (ppm)** or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**Parts per Billion (ppb)** or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per Year (mrem/yr):** measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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### Testing Results for RUTH WATER DISTRICT

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2023				

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TTHM	2023	1	3.36-6.33	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Date	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile		Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER	2022	0.061	0 – 0.0605	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	2022	.95	0-1.9	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2023	2.2	0-2.2	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	2022	0.098	0.098	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
DI(2-ETHYLEXYL) PHTHALATE	2022	1.8	1.8	ppm	6	0	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
NITRATE	2023	4.3	4.3-2.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
PICLORAM	2023	0.14	0.14	ppb	500	500	Herbicide runoff

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (226 & -228)	9/10/2020	0.7	0 - 0.7	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM	2023	16	1.8-16	µg/L	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	10/8/2020	4	0 - 4	pCi/L	15	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
CHLORIDE	2023	4.6	4.6	mg/L	400	
IRON	3/25/2021	1.7	0-1.7	mg/L	0.6	
MAGNESIUM	2023	21	21	mg/L	150	
pH	2023	7.24	7.24	pH	8.5	
SODIUM	2023	11	11	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	2023	18	18	mg/L	500	
TDS	2023	210	210	mg/L	1000	
ZINC	12/9/2021	0.023	0 - 0.023	mg/L	5	

### **Health Information About Water Quality**

**Your water meets the EPA's standard for Lead.** If present at elevated levels, however, this contaminant 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. Your 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 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>.



## Violations

During the 2023 calendar year, ELY MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT is required to include an explanation of the violation(s) in the table below and the steps taken to resolve the violation(s) with this report.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Analyte</b>	<b>Compliance Period</b>
None to report			

### Health Information About the Above Violation(s)

N/A

### Health Information About the Current Corrective Actions

The Ruth water system is supplied by a single source, a pipeline that pumps water from Ely across a mountainous access road and the Robinson Nevada Mine to the Ruth system and storage tank. The need for a reliable permanent water source has been a finding from previous surveys and continues to be a significant issue for the town of Ruth. System staff, the contracted engineer, and BSDW staff discussed some possible options during the survey, but cost and reliability are questions with the alternatives discussed. In order to expand the mine pit, Robinson Nevada Mine drilled a well for the town of Ruth to provide the town with a permanent reliable source. The water quality from the well did not meet regulatory requirements so the project has been abandoned and the pipeline has been relocated so that Ruth may continue to receive drinking water. However the system is still reliant solely on the pipeline. Under the current operating plan, three pumps that are owned by Ruth on the Ely side of the mountain must run continuously in winter to keep water from freezing in the pipeline. The pipeline is well maintained but some segments are old and lay near the ground surface. Most repairs and maintenance to the line require access permission from Robinson Nevada. Provide a plan to permanently resolve the need for a redundant source, giving activities and completion dates.