

# TOWN OF TELLURIDE 2025 Drinking Water Quality Report

## Covering Data For Calendar Year 2024

*Public Water System ID: CO0157800*

**Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.**

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact Stan Kiersztyn at 970-729-0353 with any questions or for public participation opportunities that may affect water quality.

### General Information

All 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) or by visiting [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

### Contaminant Information

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, 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:** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- **Inorganic contaminants:** salts and metals, which 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 agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time.

You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Stan Kiersztyn at 970-729-0353. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Service Line Inventory

New state and federal laws require us to inventory all water service lines in our service area to classify the material. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main, likely in the street, into your home or building. If you would like to view a copy of our service line inventory or have questions about the material of your service line, contact Stan Kiersztyn at 970-729-0353.

## Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may have provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report please visit [wqcdcompliance.com/ccr](http://wqcdcompliance.com/ccr). The report is located under “Guidance: Source Water Assessment Reports”. Search the table using our system name or ID, or by contacting Stan Kiersztyn at 970-729-0353. The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that *could* occur. It *does not* mean that the contamination *has or will* occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed below. Please contact us to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Quality Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day.

## Our Water Sources

Sources (Water Type - Source Type)	Potential Source(s) of Contamination
BLUE LAKE PORTAL (Surface Water-Intake) STILLWELL PORTAL INF GALLERY (Groundwater-Well) MILL CREEK INTAKE (Surface Water-Intake) FALLS CREST DIVERSION (Surface Water-Intake)	EPA Superfund Sites, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, Mixed Forest, Dirt Road Miles

## Terms and Abbreviations

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

- **Health-Based** – A violation of either a MCL or TT.
- **Non-Health-Based** – A violation that is not a MCL or TT.
- **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.
- **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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – 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 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.
- **Violation (No Abbreviation)** – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.
- **Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation)** – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.
- **Variance and Exemptions (V/E)** – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation)** – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.
- **Compliance Value (No Abbreviation)** - Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).
- **Average (x-bar)** – Typical value.
- **Range (R)** – Lowest value to the highest value.
- **Sample Size (n)** – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).
- **Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

- **Not Applicable (N/A)** - Does not apply or not available.
- **Level 1 Assessment** - A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment** - A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

### Detected Contaminants

TOWN OF TELLURIDE (Supplier) routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado 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, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

**Note:** Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section, then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.

<b>Disinfectants Sampled in the Distribution System</b> <b>TT Requirement: At least 95% of samples per period (month or quarter) must be at least 0.2 ppm <u>OR</u></b> <b>If sample size is less than 40 no more than 1 sample is below 0.2 ppm</b> <b>Typical Sources: Water additive used to control microbes</b>						
Disinfectant Name	Time Period	Results	Number of Samples Below Level	Sample Size	TT Violation	MRDL
Chlorine	December, 2024	Lowest period percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 100%	0	6	No	4.0 ppm

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System									
<a href="#">Lead and Copper Individual Sample Results</a>									
Contaminant Name	Time Period	Tap Sample Range Low - High	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	09/18/2024 to 09/25/2024	0.034 to 0.242	0.19	20	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	09/18/2024 to 09/25/2024	0 to 1	1	20	ppb	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System									
Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	30.94	6.2 to 90.8	8	ppb	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	22.22	4.6 to 47	8	ppb	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

**Summary of Turbidity Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System**

Contaminant Name	Sample Date	Level Found	TT Requirement	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Date/Month: Aug	<b>Highest single</b> measurement: 0.3 NTU	Maximum 0.5 NTU for any single measurement	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	Month: Aug	<b>Lowest monthly</b> percentage of samples meeting TT requirement for our technology: 99 %	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.1 NTU	No	Soil Runoff

**Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System**

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2022	0.05	0.04 to 0.06	2	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	2022	0.5	0 to 1	2	ppb	100	100	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	2024	0.15	0.1 to 0.2	2	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants**						
**Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water						
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Sodium	2022	3.07	2.4 to 4.2	3	ppm	N/A

Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions

### Health-Based Violations

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations:** Test results for this contaminant show that the level was too high for the time period shown. Please read the information shown below about potential health effects for vulnerable populations. This is likely the same violation that we told you about in a past notice. We are evaluating, or we already completed an evaluation, to find the best way to reduce or remove the contaminant. If the solution will take an extended period of time, we will keep you updated with quarterly notices.

**Treatment technique (TT) violations:** We failed to complete an action that could affect water quality. Please read the information shown below about potential health effects for vulnerable populations. This is likely the same violation that we told you about in a past notice. We were required to meet a minimum operation/treatment standard, we were required to make upgrades to our system, or we were required to evaluate our system for potential sanitary defects, and we failed to do so in the time period shown below. If the solution will take an extended period of time, we will keep you updated with quarterly notices.

Name	Description	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
CROSS CONNECTION RULE	FAILURE TO MEET CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND/OR BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS - M619 and M611	08/13/2024 - Open	Uncontrolled cross connections can lead to a back pressure or siphonage event that may allow contaminants or disease-causing organisms to enter the drinking water, which can cause diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.	N/A	N/A
Supplier lacks or was not performing membrane integrity tests	SINGLE COMB. FILTER EFFLUENT (SWTR) - T124	07/01/2024 - 12/31/2024 Mill Creek and Pandora	Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.	N/A	N/A

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Name	Description	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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Name	Description	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
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Steps taken to resolve the violation(s), and the anticipated resolution date:

**CROSS CONNECTION RULE:** An inadequate backflow prevention and cross-connection control program was observed in the 2023 reporting period during the Sanitary Survey on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This was due to a misinterpretation of the data in the Supplier’s water system by staff and not having enough personnel to enforce the completion the testing requirements for backflow prevention devices or methods. In 2024, the Supplier ensured that all permitted backflow prevention devices or methods were not over the 2-year testing window and that over 90% of the surveyed backflow prevention devices or methods were tested within the compliance period of 2024. The Supplier submitted reporting records to CDPHE by December 31, 2024. The data was still in review by the Department, but has since been resolved as on March 31, 2025. The Supplier is re-surveying in 2025 to ensure that there are no uncontrolled cross-connections within the water system and purchasing a new software to better track and monitor backflow testing, including automatic reminders for customers. The Supplier also discovered a number of “failed” backflow prevention devices within the water system that customers chose to not repair or replace and ignored notifications from the Supplier, which would have resulted in water shut-offs to ensure that the cross-connection was being controlled. The Supplier encourages anyone with backflow prevention devices to test them yearly and read the reports to make sure that any repairs/replacements are made in a timely manner so that they can report “passing” test results to the Supplier. This will help the Supplier improve records and keep the water system safe for all consumers.

### Health-Based Violations

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations:** Test results for this contaminant show that the level was too high for the time period shown. Please read the information shown below about potential health effects for vulnerable populations. This is likely the same violation that we told you about in a past notice. We are evaluating, or we already completed an evaluation, to find the best way to reduce or remove the contaminant. If the solution will take an extended period of time, we will keep you updated with quarterly notices.

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Name	Description	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
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**SUPPLIER LACKS OR WAS NOT PERFORMING MEMBRANE INTEGRITY TESTS:** To resolve this violation, the supplier has modified operational procedures and recordkeeping to ensure that the membrane filters undergo direct membrane integrity tests at least once per week while operational and following every clean-in-place process. The supplier submitted to the department inspector a written integrity testing standard operating procedure and a test log demonstrating one month of integrity tests as of August 13, 2024. There are two water treatment plants in the Town of Telluride with membrane filters and specific information about the membrane integrity tests are detailed below.

The Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant membrane filtration system supplied by Memcor is pre-programmed to perform integrity tests (IT) once every 24 hours and after each clean-in-place (CIP). The Memcor filters pre-programmed IT tests have been in place since startup of this new Memcor system in May of 2024 and records are kept within the computers automated historian records. However, all integrity tests on file have passed. This was a data keeping violation only in which records could not be presented at time of Sanitary Survey in July of 2024.

### Health-Based Violations

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations:** Test results for this contaminant show that the level was too high for the time period shown. Please read the information shown below about potential health effects for vulnerable populations. This is likely the same violation that we told you about in a past notice. We are evaluating, or we already completed an evaluation, to find the best way to reduce or remove the contaminant. If the solution will take an extended period of time, we will keep you updated with quarterly notices.

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Name	Description	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
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The Pandora Water Treatment Plant with Scinor modules installed in the Pall system is set-up with manual initiation of the integrity test. Operators perform an integrity test once every 7 calendar days and after each clean-in-place. Currently, operators record the integrity test results on hand-written logs and records have been regularly compiled as of August 5, 2024. Although integrity tests were being performed regularly, proper record keeping was not observed during the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Sanitary Survey and has been corrected since. However, all integrity tests on file have passed. This was also a data keeping violation only.

### Non-Health-Based Violations

These violations do not usually mean that there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Name	Description	Time Period
TURBIDITY	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024

### Non-Health-Based Violations

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Name	Description	Time Period
CHLORINE/CHLORAMINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024
	Turbidity and Chlorine are on one report and were turned in late. The data has been submitted however.	
TOTAL COLIFORM	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	08/01/2024 - 08/31/2024
TOTAL COLIFORM	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024
	Samples were shipped but did not make it to the lab for analysis. The Supplier has switched from shipping to direct delivery.	
RECORDS	INADEQUATE RECORD KEEPING - R520	08/13/2024 - 12/11/2024
	The Telluride water department had lost lab data on the computer server and could not show the state during the Sanitary Survey. The Supplier has added a server for redundancy.	
PUBLIC NOTICE	FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC/CONSUMERS	09/13/2024 - 10/03/2024
	Telluride missed a notification deadline by 21 days.	
E. COLI	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	02/01/2024 - 02/29/2024

### Non-Health-Based Violations

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Name	Description	Time Period
	This is from the raw not finished water and the samples did not make it to the lab. The Supplier has switched from shipping to direct delivery.	
CHLORINE/CHLORAMINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024
CHLORINE/CHLORAMINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	08/01/2024 - 08/31/2024
CHLORINE/CHLORAMINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024
	Not enough samples made it to the lab. This data contains chlorine residual in the distribution system. The Supplier has switched from shipping to direct delivery.	
CHLORINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	07/01/2024 - 09/30/2024
CHLORINE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	10/01/2024 - 12/31/2024
	With not enough data to the State, the Supplier did not prove that the chlorine was not above 4 mg/l at all times. This violation is triggered by the above violations.	
<b>Additional Violation Information</b>		

### Non-Health-Based Violations

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Name	Description	Time Period
Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.		
See Descriptions above for the steps taken to resolve the violation(s), and the anticipated resolution date.		

### Backflow and Cross-Connection

An inadequate backflow prevention and cross-connection control program was observed in the 2023 reporting period during the Sanitary Survey on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Uncontrolled cross connections can lead to inadvertent contamination of the drinking water.

As stated above, in 2024, the Supplier ensured that all permitted backflow prevention devices or methods were not over the 2-year testing window and that over 90% of the surveyed backflow prevention devices or methods were tested within the compliance period of 2024. The Supplier is re-surveying in 2025 to ensure that there are no uncontrolled cross-connections within the water system and purchasing a new software to better track and monitor backflow testing, including automatic reminders for customers. The Supplier also discovered a number of “failed” backflow prevention devices within the water system that customers chose to not repair or replace and ignored notifications from the Supplier, which would have resulted in water shut-offs to ensure that the cross-connection was being controlled. The Supplier encourages anyone with backflow prevention devices to test them yearly and read the reports to make sure that any repairs/replacements are made in a timely manner so that they can report “passing” test results to the Supplier. This will help the Supplier improve records and keep the water system safe for all consumers.