

2013 Water Quality Report for Bay Mills Indian Community

Is my water safe?

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Bay Mills Indian Community Water System for the calendar year 2013. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided to you in 2013. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards. The Bay Mills Utility and Resource staff safeguards our water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or any water quality standard from January 1 – December 31, 2013.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have gone 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/Center for Disease Control (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).

Where does my water come from?

Your water is groundwater and comes from three wells located on Bay Mills Indian Community reservation land. Our water is pumped from the ground back to the surface so that it may be distributed throughout the community and consumed. Groundwater benefits from the natural filtering that occurs as it travels through soil and rocks.

How do I get involved?

Bay Mills Indian Community currently does not have a Utilities Commission or Water Board that conducts regularly scheduled meetings. However, you can voice comments, concerns and questions by calling Mike Baragwanath, Waters System Operator, at 906-248-8173.

Source Water Assessment

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan performed an assessment of our source water in 2012. A determination of sensitivity and susceptibility to contamination was made by reviewing our source water geology, well construction, water chemistry and potential contaminant sources within the source water area. It was determined that our source water has a “low-risk” to contamination at the present time. A copy of this report may be obtained by contacting the Bay Mills Indian Community Water Operator or the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

Why are there contaminants in drinking water?

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

- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, springs and wells. Our water comes from groundwater/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**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage, septic systems, livestock or wildlife.
 - **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff from developed land, 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 or residential uses.
 - **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
 - **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes, petroleum products, stormwater runoff from developed land or septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Water quality data table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2013 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of this report. EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.
- 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.
- ppm: Part per million or milligrams per liter.

Summary of Bay Mills Indian Community Drinking Water 2013:

Regulated Chemical Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Sources of Contaminants
<i>Arsenic (ppm)</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.004</i>	<i>12/26/2007</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
<i>Barium (ppm)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>12/26/2007</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
<i>Bromodichloromethane (ppb)</i>	<i>80*</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>9/13/2013</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection</i>
<i>Chloroform (ppb)</i>	<i>80*</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>9/13/2013</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection</i>

*Sum of the concentrations of all trihalomethanes

More than 80 other required contaminants were laboratory tested and resulted in “Not Detected”. The EPA requires us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. All monitoring and reporting requirements were met for 2013.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year.

For more information contact:

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