

# **DRINKING WATER WARNING**

**&**

## **Re-issue Health Advisory**

### **Worden Ballantine Water & Sewer District**

1. Water has high levels of total Nitrate
2. Water does not meet Treatment Requirements

## **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

Water sample results taken on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 showed total nitrate level of **12.4 mg/L**. This was above the total nitrate standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10. Total nitrates in drinking water are a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

The water system continues to be under the influence of surface water and as such needs to be disinfected and filtered to meet surface water treatment regulations. Chlorine disinfection residual has been increased but is not completely effective for surface water contaminants.

REMEMBER: NITRATES LEVELS ARE HIGHER THAN ALLOWABLE LEVELS: **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER, BOILING WATER IS NOT AN OPTION FOR TREATMENT.**

Bottled water is the safest alternative for those concerned.

#### **What should I do?**

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing total nitrates in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.* Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.
- Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline @ 1-800-426-4791.

### **What does this mean?**

- Test results have confirmed that the water source is under the direct influence of surface water. The current disinfection system does not adequately treat the water.
- Nitrate levels are higher than allowable levels, boiling water is not an option, do not boil the water.
- Consumption of the water should be based on individual concerns, and those people with compromised immune systems, infants, nursing mothers, pregnant women, and elderly may want to seek guidance from their health care professional.
- **Infants below the age of six months should NOT drink the water.**

### **What is being done?**

- The District has increased the disinfection treatment until new water source is in place and the current water source is taken off line
- The District has drilled new wells and construction is anticipated to start in June, 2025 to get the new water source and treatment options online, so that the District is able to provide safe drinking water, construction is anticipated to take 1 year.
- Bottled water is handed out to WBYC WSD customers, Monday: 8:00AM-9:00AM and Friday: 8:00AM-9:00AM until the end of April, 2025, starting in May, 2025, bottled water will be handed out Monday: 7:30AM-8:30AM and Friday: 7:30AM-8:30AM

For more information, please contact Sandra Kust, PO BOX 217, WORDEN, MT, 59088 or by telephone at 406-967-2550.

**Schools, Businesses and Property Owners that have Rentals: Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water or could potentially drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, schools, and businesses).**

This notice is being sent to you by **WORDEN BALLANTINE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**

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