

Grand Portage 2025 CCR

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. Of those contaminants, only 2 exceeded EPA action levels or drinking water standards. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Grand Portage PWS obtains its drinking water from Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake by surface area in the world. Water is withdrawn through an intake located in Lake Superior and treated at the Grand Portage Water Treatment Plant through filtration and disinfection before being distributed to homes, businesses, and community facilities. Grand Portage PWS continuously monitors and tests the water to ensure it meets all applicable drinking water standards and remains safe for consumption.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Grand Portage PWS obtains its drinking water from Lake Superior. Surface water sources can be affected by naturally occurring substances as well as activities occurring throughout the

watershed. Grand Portage PWS works to protect water quality through source water protection, routine monitoring, and treatment processes designed to provide safe drinking water. For more information about source water protection or water quality, please contact Grand Portage PWS at (218) 475-2277.

Why are there contaminants in my 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

For information regarding drinking water quality or water system operations, please call (218) 475-2020. Questions and comments regarding water system matters may also be directed to the Grand Portage Tribal Council during regularly scheduled Tribal Council meetings.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

The Grand Portage PWS did not complete the required Water Quality Parameter monitoring within the required timeframe. As a result, EPA required the system to issue a Tier 3 Public Notice. Because the monitoring was not completed as required, the potential health effects are unknown. The required public notice was subsequently issued, and corrective actions were taken

to improve compliance tracking and ensure future monitoring and reporting requirements are completed on time.

Significant Deficiencies

During a sanitary survey conducted on June 10, 2025, EPA identified significant deficiencies related to the water treatment and distribution system. The deficiencies included inoperable automated filter backwash controls, inadequate filter media performance, a missing vent on the chlorine bulk tank, unused air release valves that presented a potential cross-connection concern, and a lack of inspection records for finished water storage tanks. Corrective actions have been initiated. The automated filter backwash control has been repaired, the chlorine bulk tank vent issue has been addressed, filter media replacement is underway, and the water system is verifying the status of identified air release valves. The Tribe is also soliciting quotes for inspection of the finished water storage tank and will complete any necessary corrective actions identified during the inspection.

Results of voluntary monitoring

In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Grand Portage PWS participated in an emerging contaminants monitoring project. Samples were collected and analyzed for PFAS compounds, lithium, and manganese to further evaluate drinking water quality. The monitoring results did not identify PFAS concentrations exceeding EPA drinking water standards and provided additional information to support ongoing protection of public health and drinking water resources.

Additional Information for Lead

The system inventory does not include lead service lines.

Grand Portage PWS completed a Lead Service Line Inventory using available construction records, distribution system maps, historical utility records, and field verification of service line materials. Based on the inventory, the system has not identified any lead service lines, galvanized requiring replacement service lines, or service lines of unknown material.

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. Grand Portage PWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing

lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Grand Portage PWS (Public Water System ID: 055294101) by calling 218-475-2020 or emailing vallen.cook@grandportage.gov. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Corrosion Control Efforts

Grand Portage PWS continues to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate and improve corrosion control within the drinking water system. Corrosion control treatment helps reduce the potential for lead and copper to enter drinking water from household plumbing materials. The water system conducts routine water quality parameter monitoring and is currently working with EPA to evaluate the addition of a corrosion control treatment additive. Grand Portage PWS will continue to monitor water quality and implement measures necessary to reduce corrosion and protect public health.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	6.1	5.8	6.1	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	20.4	8.9	20.4	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.154	0.0044	0.429	0	January to June 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0892	0.0056	0.276	0	July to December 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	30.1	NA	34.8	5	January to June 2025	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	28.5	NA	110	3	July to December 2025	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances	
Lead - action level at consumer taps Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. During monitoring conducted from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, the Grand Portage PWS exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 µg/L. The 90th percentile lead concentration was 30.1 µg/L. Following the Lead Action Level Exceedances, the Grand Portage PWS provided required public education and consumer notifications to affected residents. The water system reviewed sampling results, investigated locations with elevated lead concentrations, and continues to evaluate potential lead sources within customer plumbing systems. The system will continue monitoring and implementing EPA Lead and Copper Rule requirements.	
Lead - action level at consumer taps Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. The Grand Portage PWS exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 µg/L during monitoring conducted from July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The 90th percentile lead concentration was 28.5 µg/L. Following the Lead Action Level Exceedances, the Grand Portage PWS provided required public education and consumer notifications to affected residents. The water system reviewed sampling results, investigated locations with elevated lead concentrations, and continues to evaluate potential lead sources within customer plumbing systems. The system will continue monitoring and implementing EPA Lead and Copper Rule requirements.	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

For more information please contact:

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