



August 1, 2024

CRAIG MILAM
KING RANCH SUBDIVISION
PO BOX 118
FRENCHTOWN MT 59834

RE: Manganese Sampling Program for Public Water Supply Systems, King Ranch Subdivision, PWSID MT0004158

Dear Craig Milam:

Manganese has become a topic of concern across the United States and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently developed a health advisory level for manganese in drinking water. DEQ's Public Water Supply Bureau is currently implementing a sampling project to determine the prevalence of manganese that may be present in raw drinking water sources.

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in soil, water, and air. While our bodies require small amounts of manganese to stay healthy, too much is a health concern. Adults and children get sufficient manganese from the foods we eat, and infants and young children from breast milk, food, or formula.

DEQ requires King Ranch Subdivision to sample for manganese at the following facilities (by authority of ARM 17.38.219):

WL002 RW002 WELL 1 05-08-96 E GWIC 155829
WL003 RW003 WELL 2 05-09-96 W GWIC 155830.

The samples must be raw water from each source (prior to any treatment). Samples must be taken and received at the lab no later than November 30, 2024. Failure to complete the required sample(s) will result in a failure to monitor violation. However, the detection of manganese from a source water will not result in any type of violation.

DEQ will pay, on a first come first serve basis until the funding runs out, for the analytical and shipping costs to your public water supply for samples that are submitted to the Department of Public Health and Human Services Laboratory (DPHHS) Environmental Lab. DEQ is the recipient of a grant from the EPA that allows DEQ to cover these costs.

Samples taken before December 31, 2024, and submitted to other Montana certified laboratories will be accepted but analysis and shipping costs will not be paid for by DEQ.

The DPHHS lab will mail the necessary sample bottle(s) for each of your active sources to the same address as this letter. Please follow the included instructions. Return the bottle(s) and chain of custody form to DPHHS. The lab will submit the results directly to DEQ and send a copy to you. Due to lab capacity, we are asking that systems collect and submit their samples to the lab within a week of receiving the bottles.

EPA has set a health advisory limit for manganese at 0.3 milligrams per liter. If a source of water is found to be over the current EPA limit, it is recommended that the public water supply issue a health advisory.

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MT0004158

If you have questions, please contact me at 406-218-7418 or ella.gaffney@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ella Gaffney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ella Gaffney
Manganese Project Manager
DEQ Public Water Supply Bureau

cc: PWS File
Missoula County Sanitarian