



RURAL WATER NEWS

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water | 415 E Benton St., P.O. Box 188 | Lake Benton, MN 56149

Our Mission

“To enhance the quality of life for the people in the southwest Minnesota area by acquiring and providing reliable, high quality, affordable water in an environmentally responsible manner through a publicly owned system.”

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LPRW Information

Website: www.lprw.com

Email: lprw@itctel.com

Phone: 507-368-4248 or
800-462-0309

Hours: 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM M-F



This newsletter includes our annual 2013 Drinking Water Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report to provide you with information concerning the quality of water provided by Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water.

LPRW tests its water and submits reports to the Minnesota Department of Health on a schedule mandated by state and federal regulations. Water quality information provided within this document contains averages from all LPRW water sources.

The Board and staff of LPRW are very proud of our product and we hope that you - our members/customers - are happy with the quality of our water and service provided.

Additional information can be found by visiting our website at www.lprw.com.

Please take time to read this important information, and contact us if you have any questions or concerns at 1-800-462-0309.



Lincoln-Pipestone RWS Board of Commissioners

Back row from left: Earl DeWilde, Ken Buysse, J. Brent Feikema, Bill Ufkin (Treasurer), and Ron Schramel (Board Attorney)

Middle row from left: Mitch Kling, Joe Weber (Vice-Chairman), Norris Peterson

Front row from left: Frank Engels (Chairman), Rod Spronk, Janice Moen (Secretary), Jerry Lonneman



Lincoln-Pipestone RWS STAFF



From left: Ron Carr (Maintenance Tech.), David Maras (Water Operator), Jodi Greer (Enterprise Technician), Jason Overby (Operations Manager), Jeremy Rost (Water Operator), Tom Muller (Field Superintendent), Connie Bressler (Water System Clerk), Don Drietz (Senior Water Operator), Steve Lovre (Maintenance Tech.), Karen Petersen (Water System Clerk), Roger Rasmussen (Senior Water Operator), Shawn Nelson (Field Superintendent), Jared Beck (Water Operator), Pat McCarthy (Senior Water Operator), Jay Stuefen (Senior Water Operator), Glen Grant (Water Operator).

Meet LPRW's Newest Employees



David Maras was hired in July 2013 as a Water Operator. David and his family reside in Worthington.

Glen Grant was hired in June 2013 as a Water Operator. Glen resides in Russell.

Field Superintendent Tom Muller reaches



of service with LPRW.

Starting in 2015!

NOTICE:
The fee was raised to \$100 for the non-delinquent disconnect-reconnect meter service to be charged at the time of reconnection.



GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

By Mark Johnson, CEO

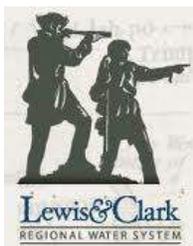
You the people of Southwest Minnesota are a good people. My first year being here has been one of warm reception and acceptance as I have adapted to the area and to the tasks at Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water. As CEO I have been given the privilege to seek the good of the peoples here. So it is with great joy that I can tell you officially that Lewis and Clark for Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water is a reality.

You have waited a long time to hear this and at times you may have thought the project was on its way to infinity. Ah! But at last infinity and all the good it brings is finally here. This infinity of good started with the vision of a lot of good people wanting to do well for their fellow man in bringing safe and reliable water to a dry and thirsty land. Over 20 years ago the then leaders of Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water joined forces with other utilities and helped form Lewis and Clark. They provided funding and got state funding and the commitment of the Federal Government for the whole project. They began and built portions of a distribution system and water plant. But then it stopped. That is the Federal funding. That was a bad thing. But your good leaders did not stop. They banded together even more strongly and rightfully pushed the Federal Government for its share of the funding. Each time funding failed the project was inflating in costs and was setting on the pathway to infinity never to be built. Though these good leaders had set backs they would not give up on the good Lewis and Clark had to give.

When things got tough, they reached out to the good that the state elected leaders could do in the state legislatures to come to the aid of Lewis and Clark. Be proud of our elected leaders here in Minnesota, they each one saw the good that Lewis and Clark means and they made good things happen in our state's bonding bill. They have funded the Minnesota portion of Lewis and Clark and our wait will soon be over. What a good reality. What a good result.

The bad in all this is that the Federal Government did not see a way to keep its commitment; but you the good people of Minnesota and the good leaders and members of Lewis and Clark will kindly give the Federal Government another opportunity to keep its commitments.

As a late comer, I get to give you this good news, but collectively over time there were many good people and leaders who saw this good vision only as a shadow but never gave up on it. To them we must be truly grateful and thankful for the good that we enjoy today. Let them and Our God who is always good inspire us to always do well. To them we say Thanks!



Biotta Pilot Project: Nitrogen Reduction/Elimination

The Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) Holland Wellfield Treatment Plant is fed by eight wells. The plant uses reverse osmosis (RO) to remove nitrate and parallel greensand filtration to remove manganese. While nitrate-laden RO concentrate historically has been discharged to a local surface water, LPRW is seeking a nitrate treatment alternative that eliminates nitrate from the environment. Carollo Engineers' biotta™ system is one such alternative and is designed to efficiently convert nitrate to harmless nitrogen gas.



In March 2013, LPRW initiated a year-long pilot study to evaluate the viability of using the biotta™ system to remove nitrate from their groundwater. Pilot testing is complete and demonstrated that 1) the system can achieve efficient removal of nitrate to below 0.1 mg/L (the limit is 10 mg/L), 2) treatment performance is robust over a wide range of operating conditions, 3) the treated water meets all drinking water regulatory requirements, and 4) the treated water tastes good (see photo below of Mark Johnson taste testing the biotta™ pilot effluent). The Minnesota Department of Health reviewed performance data and project reports throughout the study and recently granted LPRW approval for using the biotta™ system at full scale. This was the first approval of its kind in Minnesota.



Article written by Jess Brown with Carollo Inc.

Winter Thaws

We are all glad to feel the warmth of spring, but still remember the severe cold we endured this past winter. The extended low temps and wind chills made day to day tasks difficult for everyone. The same was true for our field operators trying to keep the water flowing. The calls reporting no water due to frozen mainlines started coming in during the first week of February and continued into the early part of April. All totaled we had 33 frozen mainlines and service lines, and had water flowing out of over 35 other branch lines to prevent them from freezing.

The first lines to get the attention of our thawing crews were those where cover had been removed by either road construction or private excavation. All of these could have been avoided if we had been notified of the cover removal. In some instances, we will be billing our thawing expenses back to the parties responsible. These bills for emergency line thaws will be substantially higher, and in addition to the amount it will cost to lower these lines to a safe depth. Our crews spent several days working in 20-60 below wind chills, just to get a couple hundred feet of line thawed. There was about 4 weeks of nonstop thawing with crews working 12-15 hour days, 7 days per week. Our average cost per mainline thawed was about \$4000. In addition, we purchased about \$26,000 of equipment to keep 2 crews thawing. It was a tough couple of months for our excavators trying to break through the frozen ground, often to depths of 6-7' to exposed lines for thawing. Many of the frozen lines were restored within a couple of days, while others took a week or more, relative to the amount of pipe frozen. Overall our crews went above and beyond their normal call to duty in providing water to our customers.

We anticipated problems with areas of porous, gravelly soils and proactively started clean outs to keep the water moving and avoid freezes. Even with the water flowing, many of the water temps taken were down to 34 degrees for days at a time. Those lines continued to run until they warmed a little late in April. Overall, about 3,000,000 gallons of water was flushed by our staff, and another 2,700,000 gallons was dumped by individual customers running water out of their faucets. We would like to extend a big thank you to those insightful individuals that did their part to keep their water flowing and their lines thawed.

Our crews will be working to lower shallow lines this summer and avoid future freezes. This has been a winter they would like to forget, but not until these preventative measures have been completed. On a positive note, we were able to create some interesting "ice sculptures" as shown in the accompanying photos taken by field staff. They show water frozen as it was discharging from clean outs on the system and gradually built back to the outlet pipe. In some instances, tunnels were created surrounding the water spray.

Enjoy the gentle weather of summer, winter is only about 6 months away.

Written by Don Drietz, Senior Water Operator



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PWSID: 1410007

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System 2013 Drinking Water Report

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2013. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System provides drinking water to its residents from the following groundwater sources:

- Purchases treated water from the Osceola Rural Water System – North.
- 23 wells ranging from 32 to 453 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian and Quaternary Water Table aquifers.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call 800-462-0309 if you have questions about the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

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.

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.

MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

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determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

nd—No Detection.

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2013)	Average /Result*	
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	nd-1.86	1.86	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.0125-.142	.14	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	nd-1.3	.65	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1-1.4	1.28	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	nd-41.2	20.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	nd-5.2	5.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	nd-5.36	5.36	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	2.4-63.9	32.68	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.7-1.6	1.44	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.64	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	6.1	1 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of 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. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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/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 at 1-800-426-4791.



High-Hazard Cross Connections in Minnesota



In response to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Ground Water Rule and recent incidents in Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has adopted high-hazard cross connections that are not adequately protected as a Significant Deficiency (SD) for all Community Public Water Systems (CPWSs).

For the purposes of CPWS Unit program implementation, **SDs will be defined as high-hazard cross connections** that need a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow preventer or air gap to meet the Minnesota Plumbing Code. However, CPWSs can adopt a more comprehensive approach, addressing all cross connections as part of a cross connection control program.

As of July 1, 2011, MDH District Engineers are working with CPWSs to start identifying high-hazard cross connections that are not adequately protected. These Significant Deficiencies have the potential to cause introduction of contamination into finished drinking water, and are not allowed under the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

Many CPWSs already have established programs for monitoring high-hazard cross connections in their water distribution system. **MDH is working with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association (MNAWWA), Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA), local plumbing code authorities, and the plumbing industry** to establish resources and rule language to help all CPWSs in addressing inadequately protected high-hazard cross connections.

Starting January 1, 2013 - It is expected that CPWSs will be continuously building a documented inventory of high-hazard cross connections. While doing so, the most immediate priority should be given to identifying inadequately protected high-hazard cross connections in these locations:

- *RPZ backflow preventer in inappropriate location or lacking testing;
- *Waste and/or reclaimed water pipes and handling facilities, i.e. wastewater treatment plants;
- *Chemical dispensers and/or feed lines, i.e. licensed food, beverage, and lodging establishments, and food processing facilities;
- *Car wash pump feed lines;
- *Health care facilities and providers and funeral parlors, i.e. air conditioning, fire protection, hazardous waste systems,

CPWSs will be asked at each Sanitary Survey if they suspect or know of any inadequately protected high-hazard cross connections in their distribution system.

If the answer is 'Yes', the CPWS must identify the location(s), and submit a Corrective Action plan within 120 days to address the cross-connection(s).

You can find additional resources at www.lmc.org for ordinances, www.mrwa.com for templates and helpful hints for implementing cross-connection control programs, www.mnawwa.org, www.abpa.org, www.dli.state.mn.us, and www.health.state.mn.us for grant opportunities and factsheets on High-Hazard Cross Connections – Responsible Authorities and High-Hazard Cross Connections in Minnesota. You can also contact the MDH Drinking Water Protection Section at 651/201-4700.





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New Rates in 2014

- \$21.53 - Minimum rate, no water used
- \$2.25 per thousand 0-5,000
- \$2.31 per thousand 5,001 to 10,000
- \$2.36 per thousand 10,001 to 20,000
- \$2.41 per thousand for every thousand above 20,000

Please refer to the Retail Water Rates card in your billing packet for further information or look on our website at www.lrpw.com under the billings tab, or call the LPRW office if you have any questions.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Call 811 or visit call811.com for more information.

Common Ground Alliance