NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016 | VOLUME 14

"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."

LINCOLN PIPESTONE RURAL WATER

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Email: lprw@itctel.com

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

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

Manager's Comments | Annual Water Quality Report | System Information

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Welcome everyone to the 2016 Newsletter. In this publication you will find a variety of information about the activities of Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW), the quality of water we provide and the people responsible for keeping you in service.

LPRW is committed to providing our customers with high quality water with the least amount of interruptions in service. Like with most things, there are challenges to overcome along the way: aging or undersized infrastructure; compliance with State and Federal regulations; and managing limited water resources to name a few. To meet these challenges, LPRW is currently embarking on capital improvement projects that will address those issues:

- Improvements to portions of the system-wide monitoring system (SCADA) and controls
- Completion of our expanded Verdi wellfield
- Improvements to portions of our distribution system to address pressure/flow issues

LPRW has long awaited (26 years!) the arrival of water from Lewis and Clark (L&C) Regional Water System. With the strong efforts from State Legislatures securing over $41 million to keep the project rolling, this important water source will soon be a reality. The original connection point with L&C is near the community of Adrian, MN. However, LPRW has established a second (and earlier) connection point located at Magnolia, MN. This will be a shared connection with our neighboring system Rock County Rural Water System. This second connection will provide great flexibility in managing water service, as well as providing the best option for addressing our reverse osmosis discharge compliance issue at the Holland treatment plant. A 22-mile long trunk main will be constructed to supply a proposed new pump station and expanded storage capacity at our existing Edgerton location.

Additional projects still in design phase include SCADA improvements in the northern half of our system; integration of new metering technology (meters and automated reading capabilities); and improvements to our original Verdi pump station and reservoirs. Of course, improvements always come with added costs. Water rates will increase beginning in July (see back cover) to accomplish these objectives.

Changes are happening among staff too. Four employees have obtained higher water operator certifications (Glen Grant – Class C; David Maras – Class C; Jared Beck – Class C; and Jeremy Rost – Class B). Jared Beck also has moved into the role of Water Resource/GIS Technician. Last fall, LPRW added Joshua Gums as a new water operator to our field staff.

Finally, I would like to introduce myself as the new General Manager of Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System. While my formal education was in biological sciences, I am no stranger to the water supply business. I have been with this organization since 2005 beginning as the water resource/GIS technician, later serving as Operations Manager. My role as Manager officially began in March 2016; and it comes with its own set of challenges and learning curves. Fortunately, I am blessed with a very strong support system: knowledgeable staff, dedicated Board of Commissioners, consultants and agency partners. Collectively, we strive to achieve the mission of providing a very important resource to our valued customers.

Jason Overby

The Pros and Cons of Home Water Softening

Water softeners are a common water treatment device in many homes. They are effective for removing water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium) in water. The benefits of soft water include an increased efficiency for soaps and detergents, a reduction in mineral staining on fixtures and in pipes, and a potential increase in the lifespan of water heaters. Like all water system components, water softeners must be installed and maintained properly in order to operate safely and effectively.

Softened water can contain elevated sodium levels, so people on low-sodium diets should consult a physician if they plan on regularly consuming softened water. Water softeners have operation and maintenance costs, and many produce salt brine as a byproduct. Minimizing the amount of salt brine used can help minimize downstream affects at wastewater treatment plants and the ecosystem. Some softeners also use a salt-free system. When considering whether or not to use a water softener, contact your public water system to find out if the water is considered hard. Many systems treat for hardness, making water softeners unnecessary.

Most people know the dangers of lead consumption, but there is little need for concern if we follow the simple advice of running our tap water until if feels colder for drinking or cooking. The greatest risk to our customers lies within their own household plumbing.

LEAD AND YOUR WATER

Plumbing installed before the 1990's typically consisted of copper piping with soldered joints. Through the years, regulations have significantly reduced the use of lead in solder and plumbing fixtures to where it is almost non-existent. Additionally, there is a strong tendency for plumbers to install plastic lines rather than copper. This is always a less expensive process both in material cost and speed of installation. These trends have the added benefit of making residential water safer for consumers.

We have a high level of confidence in the safety of our water. We additionally need to verify its quality to the Minnesota Department of Health through federal and state mandated regulations. Compliance is accomplished by quarterly submittal of samples from each of our 4 water sources.

Water quality and safety is taken very seriously in our state, and even more so by the water operators entrusted with your water supply. Have an enjoyable summer and be confident that your water operators at Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water are doing all they can to keep your water safe.

Written by: Don Drietz, Senior Water Operator

* New Payment Option *

We have teamed up with Paymentus Corporation to implement an easy, convenient way to pay your water bill online using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, E-Check. You may also call in using a dedicated automated phone system to pay your bill.

Paymentus will charge a $2.95 service fee for each transaction per $200.00 increment. This fee covers payment handling and processing charges.

Please make sure to call or email us your reading for the month!

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This newsletter includes our annual 2015 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.

LRPW tests its water and submits reports to the Minnesota Department of Health on a schedule mandated by the 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 are happy with the quality of our water and service provided.

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

LPRW Staff

From Left: Glen Grant (Water Operator), David Maras (Water Operator), Jay Stuefen (Senior Water Operator), Pat McCarthy (Senior Water Operator), Shawn Nelson (North Supervisor), Jeremy Rost (Senior Water Operator), Steve Lovre (Maintenance Tech.), Karen Petersen (Water System Clerk), Roger Rasmussen (Senior Water Operator), Jared Beck (Water Resource/GIS Tech.), Jodi Greer (Enterprise Technician), Jason Overby (General Manager), Don Drietz (Senior Water Operator), Ron Carr (Maintenance Tech.), Connie Bressler (Water System Clerk), Tom Muller (South Supervisor), Joshua Gums (Water Operator).

Wellhead Protection

Jared Beck, Water Resource/GIS Technician

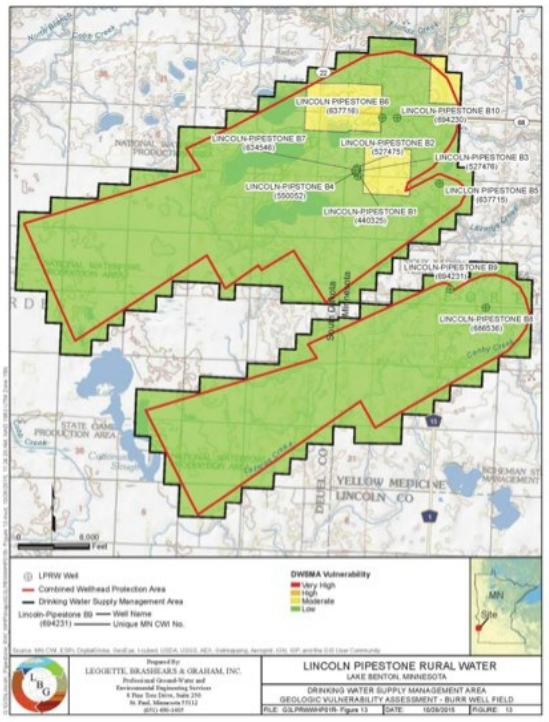
The scenery at Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water has been changing, much like it has in Southwestern Minnesota. With buffer strips going in and different land use practices being introduced, one thing is for certain: change is inevitable. One change on LPRW's end is the revision of its entire Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP). Though we are still in the revision process, many ideas have been discussed and new strategies formulated.

LPRW has three Wellhead Protection Areas that have been delineated: Verdi, Holland and North Holland. The Burr Wellhead Protection Area (see map inset) was recently added to this plan. Because of the geology within this area, the Burr Wellfield has been determined low to moderate vulnerability. In contrast the Verdi, North Holland and South Holland Wellfields have been deemed highly vulnerable due to the shallowness of the wells and lack of an overhead confining layer. These three wellfields are most susceptible to contamination and various land use activities. Nitrates is a contaminant that demands most of our attention. As a public water supplier we are required to maintain nitrate levels below the 10 ppm maximum contaminant level (MCL).

Nitrate removal can be an expensive process. Our Holland Treatment Plant incorporates reverse osmosis to remove nitrates, among other constituents. Unfortunately, treating for one problem creates another problem: a waste stream (RO effluent discharge) that harbors high total dissolved solids (TDS) which may cause acute toxicity in the receiving stream. This situation is forcing LPRW to seek alternatives to eliminate this issue and comply with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The fallout is that LPRW may not be able to utilize the North Holland Wellfield and possibly a well or two at the main Holland Wellfield.

That being said, it doesn't have to be lost forever. Research has shown crops like alfalfa do a great job for the uptake of nitrogen. Other land use practices can also have a great effect, such as: no-till, split application, cover crops, side-dressing, buffer-strips, and conservation easements.

Through grants like the Source Water Protection Grant from MN Dept. of Health, we can provide motives to help ease the cost of some of these BMP's. The $10,000 Source Water Protection Grant was applied for in 2014 and I feel like we were able to do some good things within the Wellhead. Through the grant, we were able to enroll 636.59 acres within our highly vulnerable areas into some sort of a Nitrogen Management Program, including: nitrogen inhibitors, side dressing with an inhibitor, and the enrollment of acres into CRP. The hope is that after the WHP plan is completed, we will be able to apply for more of these funding mechanisms to help producers implement the best management practices. So, in closing, if you're a producer and you want to try some of these practices, I encourage you to contact your local SWCD or Laura DeBeer, the new Water Resources Technician serving Pipestone, Lincoln, Rock and Nobles Counties. Through multi-agency efforts, Laura was brought on board to help navigate landowners and producers with the variety of programs available and assist with implementing best management practices.



LPRW AWARDED $1.5M GRANT FROM STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota is well known for its bountiful lakes and streams. However, much of the drinking water that is available to its residents originates from groundwater sources. The glacial till region of southwestern Minnesota is rather limited in water abundance, so locating and protecting good producing (and good quality) water sources is extremely important. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is persistent in this arena by working to partner with local, state and federal agencies, landowners, and producers to impact drinking water supply management units in a positive way. One approach is to seek financial assistance through grants to help effectuate our wellhead protection goals.

Through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), LPRW applied for an Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) grant that targets land acquisition, which is the ultimate method of wellhead protection. The announcement that LPRW was successful in securing these grant funds became official after approvals from both legislative bodies, and the subsequent signing of the bill containing the grant funding by Governor Dayton, we are thrilled that LPRW has been awarded a $1.5 million grant for wellhead protection land acquisition efforts! This award is the first of its kind for the ENRTF and we applaud them for having an open mind on how their funding could be used to assist us with our wellhead protection goals.

The work plan for this grant focuses on highly vulnerable lands within LPRW's three wellhead protection areas and is targeted towards areas that ultimately have the greatest impact(s) to our drinking water source. This funding will go a long way in protecting drinking water supplies for the future for our customers in southwestern Minnesota. Thanks needs to be given to all the participants involved in this project, including those representing Development Services, Inc., Lincoln and Pipestone County SWCD offices and NRCS offices, Pipestone County Environmental Office, Minnesota Dept. of Health, Minnesota Rural Water Association, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Farm Service Agencies (FSA), and LPRW staff and Board Members.

We are excited to get started with our work plan for this grant and look forward to reporting to you about how we are using these funds to help secure the future of clean, safe drinking water for all of our customers.

The Future of Your Water Bill

LPRW is currently in design phase for a system-wide meter replacement program and the incorporation of an automated meter reading (AMR) system. Mechanical meters typically have a useful life of 15 to 20 years. These meters tend to slow down overtime due to age and wear resulting in inaccurate readings; and will be replaced with new meters that employs the latest technology without moving parts. The AMR will allow us to move away from a self-read to a direct billing system. The generalized diagram is of how an AMR works.

LPRW will send out notifications to all our customers with information about this program, procedures and timelines. This will be a huge undertaking for our organization. Your support in this endeavor is greatly needed and appreciated.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PWSID: 1410007

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System
2015 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, 2015. 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 Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System and 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 Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) 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 1-800-462-0309 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 2015. 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 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).

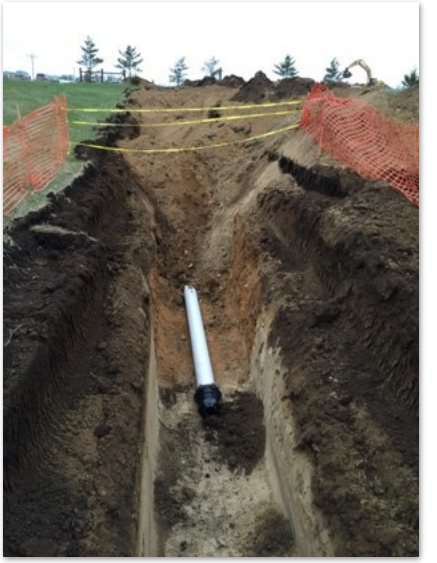
ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

nd—No Detection.

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

New above ground meter and control structures, City of Lake Benton

Installation of new raw water main at Verdi Wellfield



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2015)	Average /Result*	
Arsenic (ppb) (11/13/2013)	0	10	N/A	1.86	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm) (11/13/2013)	2	2	N/A	.01	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.28-1.1	1.03	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-40.5	40.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	nd-6.1	6.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	6.4-62.2	62.2	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.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.9-1.3	1.34	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) (08/30/2013)	1.3	1.3	.64	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (08/30/2013)	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

During the year, we failed to take a sample and/or submit information on Chlorine during the required testing period(s) of June 2015. Because we did not monitor or failed to monitor completely during the compliance period(s), we did not know whether Chlorine were present in your drinking water, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during that time.

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 naturallyoccurring 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 naturallyoccurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

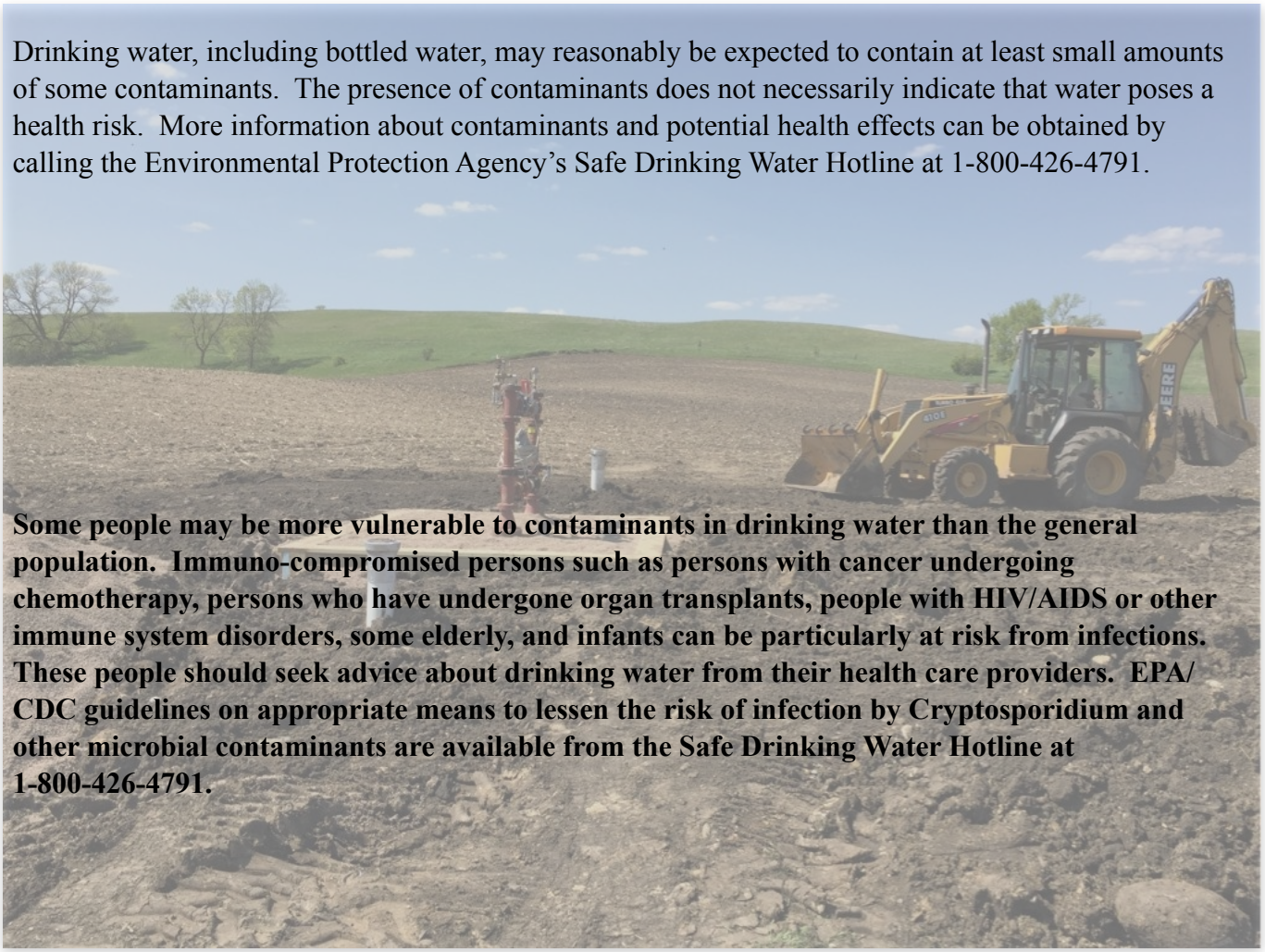
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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.

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.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water
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2016 Water Rates

Effective June 1, 2016 - Payable July 1, 2016

$27.53 - Minimum rate, no water used

$2.41 per thousand 0 to 5,000
$2.48 per thousand 5,001 to 10,000
$2.53 per thousand 10,001 to 20,000
$2.58 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.lprw.com under the billing tab, or call the LPRW office if you have any questions.