

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

South Swink WA

High Levels of Radionuclides

Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Most Recent Gross Alpha Particle Activity Sample Results Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 15 pCi/L				
Sample Location	Sample Date	Result	Annual Average	MCL Violation?
Fairmont	10/06/25	15.1 pCi/L	14.5 pCi/L	Yes
Fairview	10/06/25	9.6 pCi/L	8.5 pCi/L	Yes

Most Recent Combined Radium (-226 & -228) Sample Results Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 5 pCi/L				
Sample Location	Sample Date	Result	Annual Average	MCL Violation?
Fairmont	10/06/25	20.2 pCi/L	20 pCi/L	Yes
Fairview	10/06/25	15.9 pCi/L	14 pCi/L	Yes

Health Risks of Radionuclides in Drinking Water

Radionuclides are the product of the erosion of naturally-occurring minerals in the earth and can be present in groundwater. Radionuclides are known to cause health risks when consumed (eating or drinking). Other uses (bathing, washing dishes, skin contact, etc.) are not known to cause health risks.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL of 15 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

Some people who drink water containing radium-226 or radium-228 in excess of the MCL of 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

Steps We Are Taking

It is estimated that we will be able to connect to the AVC pipeline by 2029. On May 31, 2022, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued an enforcement order (number DW.05.22.145690) requiring us to follow a specific schedule to achieve compliance by connecting to the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC). The AVC is a Bureau of Reclamation project administered by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District to provide filtered water from Pueblo Reservoir through a constructed 130-mile pipeline to communities along the Lower Arkansas River Valley.

Until we can connect to the AVC, you can take action now to lower your health risks

- Consider using an alternative drinking water supply (e.g., bottled or another source with levels of radionuclides known to be below the MCL).
- Consider purchasing, installing, and maintaining a point-of-use (sink or faucet mounted) treatment unit or a point-of-entry (whole house) treatment unit for the removal of radionuclides.
- Boiling your water will not remove the radionuclides.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

Point-of-use treatment units (sink or faucet mounted):

Point-of-use units using reverse osmosis have been identified by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Small System Compliance Technology for combined radium, uranium, and gross alpha. Point-of-use reverse osmosis units need to be NSF/ANSI 58 certified (Price range \$160-\$300, subject to change). Point-of-use units may be cheaper than point-of-entry units, but they may treat smaller volumes of water before requiring maintenance. Units are available online by searching for NSF/ANSI 58 reverse osmosis units that specifically are designed to remove radionuclides.

Point-of-entry treatment units (whole house treatment):

Point-of-entry anion and cation exchange softeners have been identified by the EPA as a Best Available Technology and Small System Compliance Technology for radium, uranium, gross alpha. The unit must be NSF/ANSI 44 certified. (Price range \$220-\$500, subject to change) Units are available online by searching for NSF/ANSI 44 water softener units that specifically are designed to remove radionuclides.

As the regulated drinking water Supplier, we have no obligation to buy, install, or maintain a customer's radionuclide removal treatment unit.

For more information, please contact Norman Noe at 719-469-5031, or at 24980 CR Z, La Junta, CO 81050.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by: South Swink Water Authority - CO0145690 Date distributed: **03/28/26**