



**KINGBROOK**  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# Quality On Tap!

July 2025 | Volume 21, Issue 1

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SD WATERS**

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RIPARIAN ZONES  
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# FROM THE MANAGER

Heath Thompson, General Manager  
Kingbrook Rural Water System, Inc.



Summer work is in full swing, and system-wide improvement projects continue. The 2022 System Improvement Project included nine projects. Work continues at the Desmet Water Treatment Plant, Chester Water Treatment Plant, Orland Reservoir, and the Arlington Water Tower. Work should conclude on all projects this fall, except the Chester Treatment Plant, which should be concluded in the early spring of 2026. At that time, the 2022 System Improvement Project should be completed.

Bids were opened and awarded in April to facilitate the 2024 Pipeline Improvement Project. The project comprises 16 miles of 16", 12", and 10" pipelines. The addition of the pipeline will bolster water to the Manchester area of the Kingbrook distribution system. The cost of the pipeline improvements was bid at \$5,340,449.00 and will be funded by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The project is being reviewed and is expected to commence in the fall of 2025.

KBRW had an additional bid letting in May for the Desmet Well Field Improvement Project. This project, which will consist of four new production wells and will be funded with 2022 System Improvement Project loan monies, is planned to begin this fall. The bid for this improvement was \$1,199,783.00.

KBRW will continue to work on the Lead and Copper Inventory this summer. If you have received a flyer asking for assistance in helping KBRW complete the survey, don't hesitate to contact KBRW to schedule a time when an operator can collect the needed data. Your help is greatly appreciated as KBRW strives to complete this step in the survey before the deadlines. To date, KBRW must identify 606 remaining services to complete the initial survey. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the office at 605-983-5074.

KBRW welcomes three new members to the Distribution Operations team. Caleb Clark, Lake Preston Area, Reid Cummings, Brookings Area, and Benjamin Jones, of the Wentworth Area. These individuals accepted positions at KBRW due to the departure of two team members and the transition of two team members to the Treatment Operations team. William Osterberg and Logan Calmus transitioned from distribution to treatment and have been working and training at the Desmet and Chester Treatment Plants.

Kingbrook comprises 18 dedicated individuals who run, maintain, repair, and grow the members' system. The effort and commitment this takes are considerable and often go unnoticed due to the nature of how a regional water system operates. Office staff must undertake complex and detailed tasks to ensure the system's administrative function and compliance are met daily. The same is required of the field staff, who may fix issues before any service interruption. These efforts lead to accessible water 24/7 or the repair and correction, should it stop, promptly and efficiently. I am grateful to work with such a great group of individuals.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Brian Christensen**

Vice-Chairman – District 3, Arlington, SD

**Corey Dorhout**

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District 7, Howard, SD

**Barry Loomis**

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**Doyle Renaas**

District 5, Nunda, SD

**Damon Stormo**

District 1, Lake Norden, SD

## STAFF

**Heath Thompson**, General Manager

**Brian Callies**, Operations Manager

**Jon Ekern**, Treatment Plant Manager

**Jerrud Kruse**, Senior Operations Specialist

**Bill Osterberg**, Treatment Plant Specialist

**Logan Calmus**, Treatment Plant Specialist

**Chad Bjerke**, Operations Specialist

**Mike Warner**, Operations Specialist

**Corey Clelland**, Operations Specialist

**Alan Brown**, Operations Specialist

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**Aaron Jeffrey**, Operations Specialist

**Caleb Clark**, Operations Specialist

**Reid Cummings**, Operations Specialist

**Benjamin Jones**, Operations Specialist

**Tabitha Duffy**, Office Manager

**Danielle Zeeck**, Bookkeeping & Accounting Specialist


**Teresa Mohr**, Accounts Receivable Specialist

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## PAYMENT OPTIONS

There are several convenient methods for customers to pay their water bill:

- 1) Mail your payment
- 2) Drop your payment off at our office (there is a drop box on the east side of the building for 24-hour convenience)
- 3) Sign up for ACH payments (visit our website or call the office for more information)
- 4) Pay your bill online at [www.kingbrookruralwater.com](http://www.kingbrookruralwater.com) and click the "Pay My Bill" button
- 5) Sign up for the customer portal (call or email the office for more information)

## LEAK REWARD

Members who report a water leak on any of Kingbrook's main lines will receive a \$25.00 leak reward. With approximately 3,000 miles of water line in the distribution system, members can play a key role in assisting system employees in locating water leaks.

All members who received a leak reward in 2025 will be entered into a drawing for a cash prize of \$100.00. The drawing will take place at our 2026 Annual Meeting. Members need not be present to win.

The winner drawn at our 2025 Annual Meeting was Lee Klein.

## KINGBROOK'S 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING HELD

On Monday, April 14, 2025, at the Edgar L. Herrick American Legion Hall in Arlington, South Dakota, approximately 160 members attended Kingbrook's annual meeting. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Midwest Fresh Catering. Chairman Scott Tolzin called the meeting to order, and Attorney Reed Mahlke handled the election of the directors. The following directors were elected to their respective districts; District 2 – Scott Tolzin, District 3 – Brian Christensen, and District 5 – Doyle Renaas. The financial condition of the Corporation was presented along with reports from Chairman Tolzin and General Manager Heath Thompson. A drawing for the door prizes was held with Shellie Brandriet of Arlington the lucky winner of \$250 cash. Other door prizes in the amounts of \$100, \$50 (2), and \$25 (4) were awarded. Other prizes donated by Jeremy Fox were awarded.



*Shellie Brandriet (left), pictured with Kingbrook employee Tabitha Duffy (right), received the \$250 cash prize.*

## HOLIDAY HOURS

The Kingbrook Rural Water office will be closed on the following dates:

**FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025 - INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 - LABOR DAY**

In case of an emergency, please call the office at 605-983-5074 or toll free at 1-800-605-5279 and you will be forwarded to our after-hours answering service.

# 2025 KINGBROOK RWS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**KATE LARSON** is the daughter of Daron and Ann Larson from De Smet, currently attending Willow Lake High School. Extra-curricular activities that Kate has been involved in are basketball, volleyball, JO Volleyball, FFA, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Kate has been recognized as volleyball captain and volleyball defensive MVP. She volunteers through her church youth group and her National Honor Society Chapter. Kate has been accepted to Southeast Technical College's cardiovascular sonography program.

**SAMUEL GIGOV** is the son of Alex and Robin Gigov from De Smet, currently attending De Smet High School. He is actively involved in football, basketball, track, oral interp, one-act play, all-school play, student council, band, choir, and all-state choir. Samuel is a member of The National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is an ALC Church Council Deacon. He volunteers his time helping with De Smet youth football and the Wellness Coalition. Samuel plans on attending South Dakota State University and majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



**BRIELLA WETTLAUFER** is the daughter of Travis and Carly Wettlaufer from Ramona, currently attending Howard High School. Briella is active in cross country, track, FFA, and oral interp. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Servant Leadership Team for her church youth group. She volunteers her time by teaching Sunday school and working with both her church youth group and the Child Evangelism Fellowship. Briella plans on attending South Dakota State University and double majoring in Agronomy and Horticulture.

**ELLISYN VINCENT** is the daughter of Jeani and Jesse Vincent from Arlington, currently attending Arlington High School. Ellisyn is active in basketball, volleyball, track, golf, student council and more. She is a member of The National Honor Society and Calvary Free Youth Group. Ellisyn has volunteered in several ways including organizing a Veterans Day Program, working blood drives, refereeing elementary basketball games, volunteering at a booth for the Kingsbury County Cancer Walk and packaging food for Feeding America. Ellisyn plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in Mechanical Engineering and Minor in Biomedical Engineering.



**LUCAS FELDHAUS** is the son of Jared and Sarah Feldhaus from Howard, currently attending Howard High School. Extra-curricular activities that Lucas has been involved in are basketball, football, and FFA. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Lucas volunteers by helping with snow removal at his church, tutoring elementary students, and helping with youth basketball and football. Lucas plans on attending Mitchell Technical College to pursue a degree in Agronomy.

# ZEBRA MUSSELS: A GROWING THREAT TO SOUTH DAKOTA WATERS

## What Are Zebra Mussels?

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are small, invasive freshwater clams that originated in Eastern Europe. First discovered in the United States in the mid-1980s, they made their debut in Lake St. Clair near Detroit, Michigan. Since then, zebra mussels have rapidly spread throughout the Mississippi River drainage, including the Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Ohio Rivers, and even into Western U.S. waters. South Dakota has not been spared, with confirmed infestations increasing over the years.

## Why Are They a Problem?

Although small – typically ranging from ½ inch to 2 inches in size – zebra mussels pose a massive ecological and economic threat. They reproduce quickly and can attach to almost any hard surface, including boat hulls, docks, native mussels, and water intake structures. Their larvae, called veligers, are microscopic and can easily be transported in water – making them nearly impossible to detect and easily spread between bodies of water.

## South Dakota Waters Impacted

Zebra mussel infestations have been confirmed in numerous South Dakota waterbodies. The timeline of initial detections is as follows:

- 2014 Lewis and Clark Lake
- 2015 Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, McCook Lake
- 2018 Lake Yankton
- 2019 Lakes Sharpe and Francis Case
- 2020 Lake Cochrane, Kampeska, Pickerel, Dahme Quarry
- 2021 Lake Mitchell
- 2022 Enemy Swim, Blue Dog, Clear Lake, South Rush, Pactola Reservoir
- 2023 James River/Sand Lake Refuge, Roy Lake, Big Sioux River, Bigstone Lake, Lake Oahe
- 2024 North Rush/Minnewasta Lake, Pelican Lake, Bullhead Lake, Lake Poinsett/Dry Lake Complex

## How You Can Help Stop the Spread

To help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species (AIS), the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department urges all water users to follow the “Clean. Drain. Dry.” protocol:

**CLEAN:** Before leaving any waterbody, thoroughly inspect your watercraft, trailer, and gear. Remove any visible plants, mud, animals, or debris.

**DRAIN:** Eliminate all water from your boat, including the bilge, ballast tanks, livewells, and motor. Pull all drain plugs and leave them out while transporting.

**DRY:** Allow your equipment and watercraft to dry completely – ideally for at least five days – before launching in another waterbody. If drying time isn’t possible, pressure-washing with hot water (140°F or higher) can help remove and kill veligers.

## Additional Tips to Prevent Spread:

- Never transport water, fish, or bait from one waterbody to another.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash, not the water.
- Avoid launching in zebra mussel-infested waters when possible.
- Encourage others to follow AIS prevention practices.
- Report any suspected AIS sightings to authorities immediately.

## Stay Informed and Involved

Education and vigilance are key to stopping the spread of zebra mussels. Visit [sdleastwanted.sd.gov](https://sdleastwanted.sd.gov) for:

- Current AIS regulations and updates
- Interactive maps of infested waters
- Frequently asked questions
- A citizen monitoring page for reporting AIS
- Media gallery to help identify invasive species

Together, we can protect South Dakota’s waters for future generations. Every boater, angler, and lake-goer plays a role in preventing the spread of these invasive pests.

# South Dakota's Riparian Zones

## Vital Corridors for Wildlife, Livestock, and Water Quality

Tucked between the flowing waters of rivers and the open plains of South Dakota lie some of the state's most ecologically valuable and often overlooked landscapes: riparian areas. These lush strips of vegetation that border rivers, streams, and wetlands are much more than scenic backdrops. They provide critical habitat for wildlife, vital resources for livestock producers, and serve as natural water filters that protect the state's waterways.

Riparian zones are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems in South Dakota. These green corridors offer everything from nesting grounds and food sources to safe passageways for animals. Deer, pheasants, ducks, and hundreds of bird species rely on these areas for survival. A prime example is the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which boasts over 260 bird species, including the world's largest colony of Franklin's gulls.

These corridors also function as wildlife highways, allowing species to migrate between habitats. This natural connectivity boosts genetic diversity and sustains healthy populations – particularly important as human land use continues to fragment natural landscapes.

For South Dakota ranchers, riparian areas are more than pretty scenery – they're a working asset. These zones provide shelter from wind in the winter and shade from the summer heat, offering a refuge for cattle during extreme weather. Many ranchers also use riparian zones as calving areas due to the natural protection they offer.



Healthy riparian areas play a vital role in supporting clean water sources and maintaining stable stream banks. Dense vegetation acts as a natural filter, capturing sediments and pollutants from surface runoff before they reach water bodies. This not only ensures cleaner water for livestock but also helps prevent erosion, protecting valuable grazing land and nearby ecosystems.

Often overlooked, riparian zones are crucial for improving water quality. Acting like nature's Brita filter, they absorb

excess nutrients, trap sediments, and slow runoff into creeks and rivers. The deep roots of riparian plants help anchor stream banks, reducing erosion and preserving aquatic habitats. For South Dakotans, the ecological benefits of these areas also support essential needs like farming, drinking water, and recreation – making them a key component of both environmental and economic health.

Recognizing the importance of riparian areas, several state-led programs have stepped up to support landowners in preserving and managing these zones.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) launched a \$5 million initiative offering landowners direct payments for establishing vegetated riparian buffers. These buffers reduce runoff, increase biodiversity, and maintain water quality.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department also assists ranchers through cost-share programs that encourage vegetation regrowth, bank stabilization, and sustainable grazing strategies – part of a larger effort to

improve riparian pastures across the state.

Another standout effort is the Big Sioux River Project, which supports water quality and land stewardship through two direct payment buffer programs – RAM (Riparian Area Management) and SRAM (Seasonal Riparian Area Management). Designed to balance conservation with agricultural productivity, these programs allow for

controlled haying and grazing, enabling landowners to remain productive while protecting vital water resources.

Since 2013, these programs have achieved measurable success, enrolling 4,072 acres and protecting over 102 miles of streams across eastern South Dakota's high-priority water bodies. The impact of RAM and SRAM highlights the effectiveness of collaborative, flexible conservation strategies that deliver benefits for both the environment and the agricultural community.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Quick Riparian Facts:

Approximately 75% of South Dakota's wildlife relies on riparian zones at some point in their lifecycle. A 35-foot-wide vegetated buffer can remove up to 85% of nitrogen from runoff. These buffers don't just help on the farm – they improve downstream water quality for both urban and rural communities across the state.

Good management of riparian zones doesn't require radical change. For instance, rotating cattle and limiting time spent in riparian areas can prevent overgrazing and allow vegetation to recover. Fencing off riparian zones and installing off-site watering stations helps reduce livestock impact and improve water quality. Maintaining native plants plays a key role, too – stabilizing stream banks and soaking up excess nutrients and runoff.

Improving riparian health isn't just an environmental move – it can also be a smart financial decision. Many landowners choose to place buffers in less-productive or flood-prone areas, helping to cut input costs such as seed, fertilizer, and labor. Incentive and cost-sharing programs further ease the burden by covering a portion of the expenses for establishing and maintaining these buffers. Through the Big Sioux River Project, both the RAM and SRAM programs offer 10- or 15-year contract options, with one-time upfront

payments ranging from \$100 to \$140 per acre per year – making long-term conservation a smart and rewarding choice.

There are tangible benefits, too: research shows that livestock with access to clean water gain up to 23% more weight compared to those drinking from contaminated sources. Better water means better health – and ultimately, better returns.

Riparian areas in South Dakota are far more than scenic strips of vegetation – they're vital ecosystems that support wildlife, safeguard water quality, and strengthen the state's agricultural backbone. With responsible stewardship and the help of conservation programs, landowners have the opportunity to preserve these critical landscapes for future generations, ensuring South Dakota continues to thrive for its people, livestock, and native species alike.



# FLOWING FORWARD

## State and Federal Dollars Power South Dakota's Water Improvements

**F**rom the rolling Missouri River to the rural towns that dot the prairie, water is South Dakota's most vital resource – and thanks to historic federal investment, it's getting the attention it deserves.

Since 2022, more than \$175 million in federal funding has been channeled into South Dakota's water infrastructure. These investments are improving drinking water systems, upgrading wastewater treatment, and expanding rural water access. It's all part of a coordinated effort between state and federal agencies to tackle aging infrastructure and ensure clean, reliable water for generations to come.

### A Landmark Boost: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Much of this funding comes through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is fueling water infrastructure projects across the state. This includes efforts to improve drinking water quality, replace outdated systems, and ensure access to clean water in even the most remote areas. The law also supports job creation and economic growth through infrastructure development. In South Dakota, this means long-overdue repairs to failing systems, lead pipe removal, and strategic upgrades to prevent pollution and contamination.

### Key Federal and Private Partners Powering the Progress

State funding is allocated through project-specific appropriations in the annual Omnibus Funding Bill. Projects within the State Water Resources Management System must submit requests for funding through this bill each year. Below are the different funding sources offered through the state of South Dakota.

#### ■ Consolidated Water Facilities Construction

**Program:** The Consolidated program is able to fund projects listed on the state water facilities plan. This includes most municipal and rural water systems for water, wastewater, storm water and other water infrastructure type projects. Projects must submit for funding consideration within two years of the state water facilities plan placement or reapply for consideration in the future.

#### ■ State Water Resources Management System

**(SWRMS):** The SWRMS identifies large, costly water projects that require specific state or federal authorization and financing. These projects are placed on the SWRMS list when recommended by the board and approved by the Governor and Legislature. The State Water Resources Management System serves as the preferred priority list to accomplish optimum water resources management in the state. A project remains on the list until it is removed by legislative action.

South Dakota also taps into a diverse toolkit of federal programs, including:

#### ■ USDA Rural Development Grant & Loan Program:

The USDA Rural Development Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program helps rural communities (pop. 10,000 or less) finance essential water, sewer, and waste infrastructure. It offers low-interest loans and grants to public bodies, non-profits, and tribes for projects like water systems, treatment plants, and stormwater management. Funds can also cover related costs such as land, legal fees, and startup operations. Applications

are accepted year-round, supporting public health and rural development.

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF):** Provides low-interest loans and grants to cities and counties for essential wastewater and stormwater projects.
- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF):** Supports upgrades to drinking water systems, including lead pipe replacement and water storage improvements.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** From 2021-2024 The Governor's office worked with the State Legislature to Allocate nearly \$700 million in State ARPA funds to revitalize failing infrastructure in communities statewide.

A wide-ranging coalition of funding partners is making this transformation possible. In addition to EPA-administered programs like the State Revolving Funds and State ARPA allocations, South Dakota systems benefit from support provided by:

- **USDA – Rural Development**, which offers essential water and environmental loan and grant programs for small, rural communities across the state.
- **The Bureau of Reclamation**, a key partner in large-scale water projects and infrastructure development throughout the western United States.
- **CoBank**, which provides lending support and strategic financing options to rural utilities, cooperatives, and regional water systems.

These organizations, working alongside DANR and the Legislature, help ensure that projects are not only funded but structured to serve communities sustainably for decades.

## Funding in Action: Real Projects Making a Difference

The results of this federal support are visible across South Dakota:

- \$28.6 million for lead pipe replacement was recently announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure clean, safe drinking water for families across the state.
- Rural Water Systems like the Lewis & Clark and the WINS Project (Water Infrastructure in Northern South Dakota) are expanding access in underserved areas.
- Western Dakota Regional and Dakota Mainstem have an eye to the future, looking to provide needed water demands and addressing critical capacity needs.
- Urban wastewater projects are underway in cities including Aberdeen, Brookings, Yankton, and Rapid City – revitalizing aging treatment systems and improving public health.
- Small-towns have also received attention, with funding directed at helping rural communities upgrade and modernize local water systems.

## The Role of State Leadership

At the helm of managing these funds is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). The agency oversees the distribution of state and federal dollars and ensures projects align with the state's long-term water needs.

The State Water Plan, updated annually, identifies priority projects that are eligible for federal and state funding. In 2025 alone, the plan outlines more than \$530 million in water infrastructure needs across 61 projects statewide. The plan identifies essential improvements such as:

- New and upgraded water towers in rural towns
- Sewer line replacement and stormwater control in growing cities
- Treatment plant expansions to meet updated EPA standards
- Water source development to support agriculture and small communities

In a move to safeguard long-term funding, state lawmakers are also considering the creation of a Water Infrastructure Development Fund – a dedicated account to manage both state and federal resources for rural water expansion in FY2026.

DANR also provides resources and technical assistance to ensure communities – especially disadvantaged ones – can navigate the application process and maintain compliance with evolving federal regulations.

## A Future Flowing with Opportunity

With continued federal backing and strong state leadership, South Dakota is poised to make historic progress in modernizing its water infrastructure. The results will be cleaner water, stronger communities, and a more resilient state – ready to meet both current needs and future challenges.

As federal investment continues, South Dakota's water future looks brighter and more secure. With comprehensive planning through the State Water Plan and the continued rollout of infrastructure dollars, communities across the state – from the Missouri River to the prairie towns – are building stronger, cleaner, and more resilient systems for generations to come.

For more information, project updates, and funding opportunities, visit the South Dakota DANR website at [danr.sd.gov/Funding/EnvironmentalFunding/StateWaterPlan.aspx](https://danr.sd.gov/Funding/EnvironmentalFunding/StateWaterPlan.aspx) or the EPA's infrastructure investment portal at [epa.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-investments](https://epa.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-investments).

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SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO READ THE 2025  
STATE WATER PLAN



## TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT

Spanning over 2,200 miles of pipeline across five counties, the Tripp County Water User District (TCWUD) is a vital lifeline for 2,863 consumers in south-central South Dakota. Covering a geographic area of 101 miles east to west and 51 miles north to south, TCWUD operates from its headquarters in Winner, where a dedicated team of eight full-time employees, one part-time employee and a nine-member Board of Directors work tirelessly to provide safe and reliable water service.

The origins of TCWUD trace back to the early 1970s when local farmers and ranchers struggled to access high-quality potable water. At the time, many residents relied on artesian wells or hauled water for household and livestock needs. Recognizing the need for a dependable water source, a steering committee was formed to explore solutions.

After facing multiple setbacks in securing land for drilling, Lawrence and Sedonia Wagner became the first landowners to permit surveying on their property. Their generosity led to the discovery of a high-quality water source, paving the way for the district's establishment. Thanks to the perseverance of the committee and the Wagners' support, construction began in the fall of 1977. By the following year, TCWUD was fully operational, serving 515 users with 500 miles of pipeline. Initially, the system relied on two wells delivering 250 gallons per minute to a 500,000-gallon storage reservoir, supplying water to one town and four Native American communities in Tripp, Gregory, and Lyman counties.

Since its inception, TCWUD has undertaken multiple expansions to meet growing demand. The first occurred in 1979 with the Mellette County Expansion, adding 55 users. By 1986, service extended to the Wewela and Lucas areas, accommodating an additional 230 users. Growth continued into the early 1990s with expansions into the Witten, Iona, and Carlock areas.

One of the most significant expansions occurred between 2003 and 2004, when TCWUD acquired the East Gregory Water System, increasing its customer base to nearly 2,000. In 2009, the district further expanded, adding 101 users in the Clearfield Service Area and upgrading its internal infrastructure. The next major project began in 2015, involving the installation of 214 miles of additional pipeline, replacing five booster vaults, constructing a new booster vault, and rehabilitating nine pressure-reducing valves. Two new water towers, one in Fairfax and the other southwest of Burke were also added, along with 88 new users and the replacement of 91 meter pits in East Gregory.

In the fall of 2021, TCWUD applied for inclusion in the State Water Plan, seeking support for necessary infrastructure improvements. In April 2022, the district received a significant financial boost with a \$13.3 million award, including a \$9.25 million Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$4.05 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. These funds were allocated to replace two storage tanks, upgrade parallel and loop lines to enhance water pressure, and expand the well field to ensure adequate supply.

Building on this success, TCWUD secured an additional \$2,034,121 ARPA grant in 2024 to further improve storage tanks, water lines, and well-field development. Receiving grant funding and a zero-percent interest loan represents a monumental achievement for the system and its customers.



TCWUD's dedication to providing high-quality water has earned the district several prestigious awards. It won the South Dakota Rural Water Best Tasting Water Award in 2007 and 2009, securing second place in 2010 and 2011. In January 2017, TCWUD was honored as the 2016 Rural Water System of the Year at the Annual Technical Conference in Pierre. Additionally, the district consistently earns recognition from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for meeting safe drinking water standards.

Sourced from the Valentine Formation of the Ogallala Aquifer, TCWUD's water supply is of exceptional quality. Under the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources regulation, the district treats its water with gas chlorine and liquid fluoride. With seven active wells and a main storage capacity of two million gallons, TCWUD pumps on average 2.1 million gallons of water daily, with a maximum pumping capability of 3,000 gallons per minute.

Beyond its rural customers, TCWUD supplies water to the

# TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT



towns of Dallas, Witten, Wood, Herrick, Fairfax, Burke, Bonesteel, St. Charles, and, when necessary, Colome and Gregory. The district also provides water to six Native American communities – Winner, Ideal, Dixon, Bull Creek, Milk’s Camp, and Wood – as well as multiple recreational areas, including Buryanek, Whetstone Bay, South Scalp Creek, Burke Lake, Randall Creek, and South Shore.

Honoring those who helped establish the district, TCWUD awards two \$1,000 scholarships annually in the Wagner and Jorgensen family names. Each April, these scholarships are granted to children of TCWUD members based on essays detailing how rural water has impacted them or their communities.

As TCWUD celebrates over 50 years of operation, its commitment to innovation and service remains steadfast. With an average of 40 to 50 new customers joining annually for household, seasonal, and livestock use, the district continuously evolves to meet growing demand. Infrastructure upgrades, system enhancements, and a strong dedication to water quality ensure that TCWUD will continue providing safe, reliable water for generations.

Through the perseverance of its board, employees, and community members, TCWUD stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and a shared vision for a better future. From its humble beginnings to its current role as a leader in rural water services, TCWUD exemplifies the impact of dedication, innovation, and community spirit.



## DIRECTORS:

- Chairman – Craig Covey
- Vice Chairman – Louis Kehn
- Secretary – Steve Wonnenberg
- Treasurer – Roger Kingsbury
- Director – Bryan Jorgensen
- Director – Richard Rubel
- Director – Jason Bartels
- Director – Dan Forgey
- Director – Brandon York

## STAFF:

- General Manager – Lisa Stiehl
- Office Manager – Sandy DeMurs
- Billing Clerk – Connie Shippy
- Operations Manager – Jason Orel
- Water Operator – Craig Brown
- Water Operator – Michael “Bud” Jacobsen
- Water Operator – Trevor Herman
- Water Operator – Chris Bartels

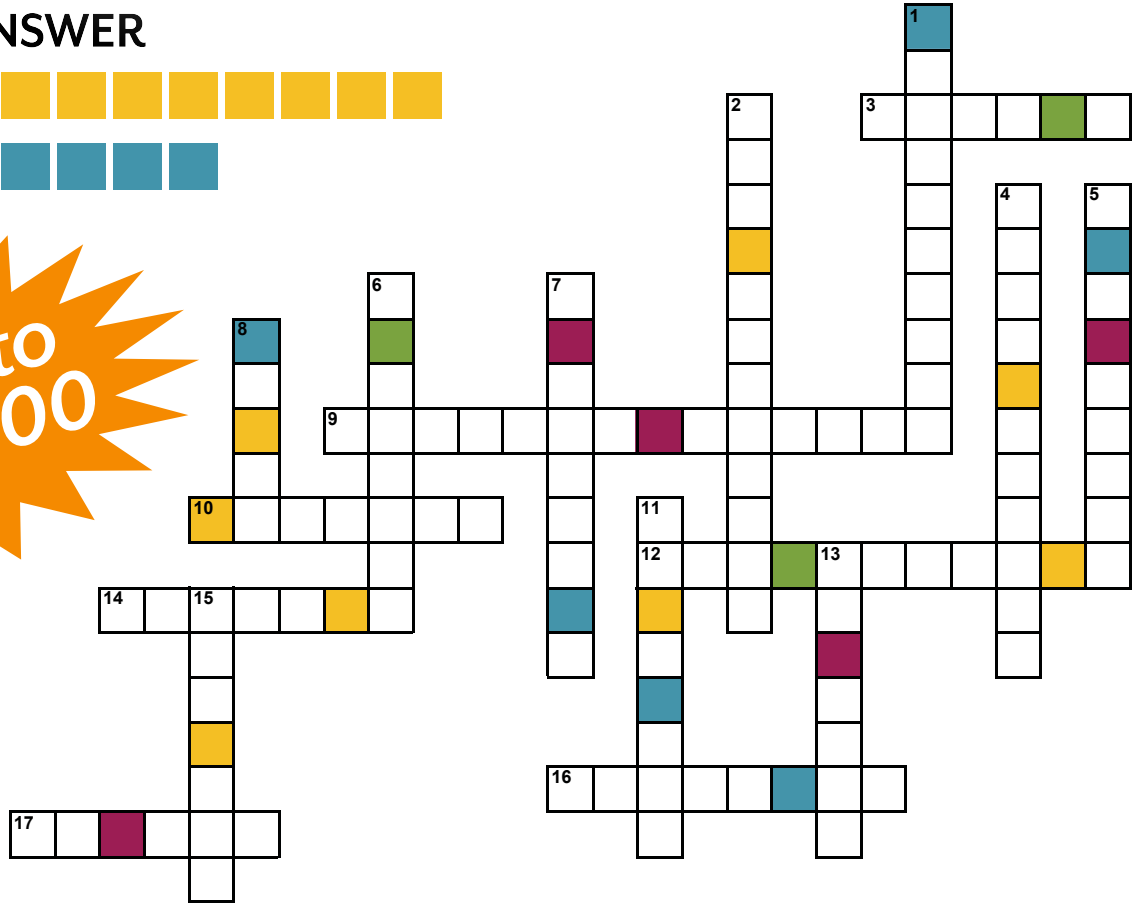
## STATISTICS:

- Hookups: 2,844
- Miles of Pipeline: 2,289
- Water Source: Valentine Formation of Ogallala Aquifer
- Counties Served: Tripp, Gregory, portions of Lyman, Mellette, and Todd
- Towns Served Individual: Witten, Wood, Herrick, Fairfax, and St. Charles
- Towns Served Bulk: Towns of Colome, Dallas, Burke, Bonesteel, 6 Native American Communities, and the City of Gregory (backup)

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## WATER SPORTS

### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### Across

- 3. Using oars to move a boat forward
- 9. Standing and paddling on a long flat board
- 10. Navigating a boat using the wind
- 12. Combines surfing and sailing with a sailboard
- 14. Floating on rough rivers in an inflatable boat
- 16. Similar to kayaking, but with a

singleblade paddle

- 17. Jumping or falling into water from a platform

### Down

- 1. Swimming near the surface using a breathing tube
- 2. Being towed behind a boat on a single board
- 4. Being lifted by a parachute behind a boat
- 5. Riding a fast watercraft like a

motorcycle on water

- 6. Paddling a small boat with a doublebladed paddle
- 7. Team sport played in a pool with a ball
- 8. Diving deep using a tank of air
- 11. Moving through water using your arms and legs
- 13. Riding waves on a board
- 15. Catching aquatic creatures with a rod or net

**RULES:** Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by July 15, 2025 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Jan VanGenderen from Aurora-Brule Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "Integrity blooms like flowers" for April 2025.



# KINGBROOK

## RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform you of the quality of the drinking water that we provide. We are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test our water frequently for the presence and concentrations of possible contaminants. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) reviews all our testing data to ensure that 1) we are providing safe drinking water to our customers, and 2) we are complying with EPA regulations. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Once again, Kingbrook Rural Water System has supplied another year of safe drinking water to the public it serves and has been awarded the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

**We want you to fully understand the information contained in this report. If you have any questions, please contact:**

*Heath Thompson, General Manager  
Kingbrook Rural Water System, Inc.  
P.O. Box 299, Arlington, SD 57212  
Phone: 800-605-5279 or 605-983-5074*

## WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Kingbrook Rural Water System employees work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board meetings held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Monday of every month at our office in Arlington. (Please call the office for any scheduling changes.)

Please call our office if you have questions at 800-605-5279 or 605-983-5074 if you wish to attend a meeting.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Our water system is separated into three geographic areas, each of which has its own treatment plant and water source from groundwater drawn from wells. Phase I, located north of Bruce, and Phase III, located near Chester, both draw from the Big Sioux Aquifer; and Phase II, located north of DeSmet, draws from the East Fork of the Vermillion Aquifer.

Wellhead protection areas have been defined for each of our wellfields. DANR has performed an assessment of our source water and they have determined that the relative susceptibility rating for Kingbrook Phase I is low and for Kingbrook Phase II and Kingbrook Phase III is medium. For more information about your water, please call our office at 605-983-5074.

**We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.**

## WHY DO WE TEST OUR DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. The water we pump from our wells is from underground aquifers, supplied by water that originally comes from the surface, and very slowly seeps down into the aquifer. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, 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.

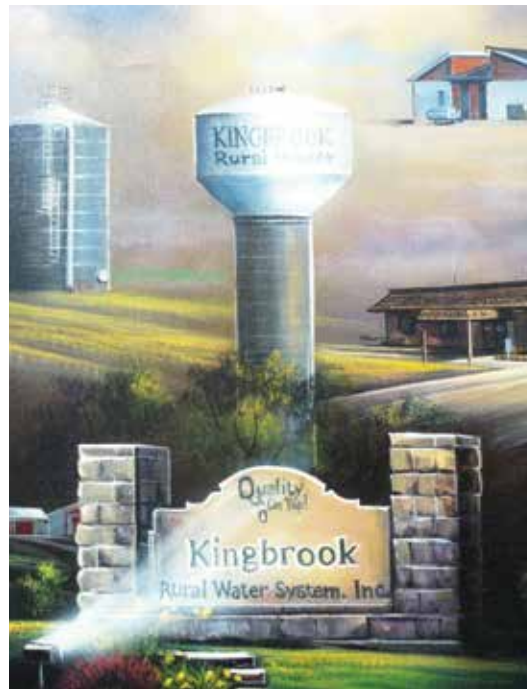
**Unregulated contaminants** are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

## INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EPA

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 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



## DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following definitions are provided to assist you in understanding our water quality test results presented in the tables on page 15.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** - a measure of radioactivity.

### Positive Samples Per Month (PSPM)

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The "Maximum Allowed" is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal" is 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.

**Running Annual Average (RAA)** - Compliance is calculated using the running annual average of samples from designated monitoring locations.

*N/A - Not Applicable*

*ND - Not Detected*

*\*\*Optimum Fluoride Level - 0.7*

*MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.*

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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. Kingbrook 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>.

## WHAT TREATMENT DOES OUR WATER RECEIVE?

After we pump the water from our wells, we filter the water to remove iron and manganese. Although the iron and manganese in our water does not pose a health concern, these two naturally occurring substances can cause the water to appear brown or rust-colored and can stain clothes and plumbing fixtures. We, therefore, treat our water to remove these substances.

Once the iron and manganese are removed, chlorine is added to eliminate bacteria and fluoride is added to protect against tooth decay. The finished water is pumped into an initial storage tank called a clearwell, from there into the distribution system, and ultimately to your home.

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS AND WATER QUALITY DATA

The table at the end of the report list the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2024. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. In these cases, where the last sample was taken prior to 2024, the sample date has been provided.

Kingbrook Rural Water System participated in the EPA's UCMR5 sampling program in 2024 and this report is being used as a public notice. Any detected contaminants have been included in this report.

## SUMMARY OF 2024 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Last year, we were required to test for various drinking water contaminants. Only a very small number of these, as shown in the table, registered a detectable quantity. Additionally, in each case, the detected quantity fell far short of the maximum limit. If a specific contaminant is not shown on the table, it is because the analytical results indicate the sample tested below the detection level.

**Alpha Emitters** are substances that naturally occur in rocks and soil. The levels detected are well below those allowed by the EPA.

**Arsenic** occurs as a result of natural deposits or from runoff from orchards. The levels detected are well below those allowed by the EPA.

**Barium** occurs as a result of erosion of natural deposits and was detected in the Big Sioux and Vermillion Aquifers at an insignificant quantity.

**Chromium** occurs as a result of erosion of natural deposits and was detected at levels dramatically lower than the highest level allowed by EPA.

**Fluoride** is naturally present at low levels in our water. In addition, we add fluoride to the water to promote healthy teeth.

**Nitrate** levels in our water in 2024 were found at amounts consistent with our area land use and significantly below the highest level allowed by EPA.

**Lead and Copper** levels are normally a function of home plumbing fixtures. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes throughout the system as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may want to have your water tested. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Selenium** is a naturally occurring substance found in the soil and rocks of this region. Detected quantities were significantly below maximum allowable levels.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids** are chemicals produced by the chlorination of drinking water. Detected levels found were well below the highest level currently allowed by EPA.

# 2024 KINGBROOK WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Kingbrook Phase I – Bruce Water Treatment Plant							
Substance	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units	Likely source of substance
<b>Inorganic Substances</b>							
Fluoride	5/1/24	0.95	0.56 - 0.95	<4	4	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	3/18/24	3.0	NA	10	10	ppm	Fertilizer runoff; leaking septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Antimony	11/8/21	0.2	ND-0.2	6	6	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants, ceramics;
Arsenic	11/8/21	1.0	NA	0	10	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards
Barium	11/4/21	0.092	0.071-0.092	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	11/4/21	1.84	0.87-1.84	100	100	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	11/4/21	0.9	0.67-0.9	50	50	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Substances</b>							
Lithium	4/10/23	25.2	24.1 - 25.2	NA	NA	ug/l	
<b>Water Quality Tests taken throughout the Distribution System</b>							
Haloacetic Acids	9/4/24	12.6	NA	0	60	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	9/4/24	29.3	NA	0	80	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Substances</b>							
Alpha emitters	6/15/21	4	ND-4	0	15	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Water Quality Tests taken at the Consumer's Tap Located within Kingbrook Phase I</b>							
Substance	Sample Date	Level Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	# of Samples above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely source of substance
Copper	6/26/24	0.3	0	0	AL = 1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	7/1/24	2.3	0	0	AL = 15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Kingbrook Phase II – De Smet Water Treatment Plant							
Substance	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units	Likely source of substance
<b>Inorganic Substances</b>							
Fluoride	12/2/24	1.00	0.60 - 1.00	<4	4	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	6/11/24	<0.2	NA	10	10	ppm	Fertilizer runoff; leaking septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	11/3/21	1.0	NA	0	10	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards
Barium	11/3/21	0.027	NA	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	11/3/21	2.53	NA	100	100	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Water Quality Tests taken throughout the Distribution System</b>							
Haloacetic Acids	9/4/24	15.5	N/A	0	60	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	9/4/24	43.2	N/A	0	80	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
<b>Water Quality Tests taken at the Consumer's Tap Located within Kingbrook Phase II</b>							
Substance	Sample Date	Level Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	# of Samples above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely source of substance
Copper	7/2/24	0.2	0	0	AL = 1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	6/27/24	2.4	0	0	AL = 15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Kingbrook Phase III – Chester Water Treatment Plant							
Substance	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units	Likely source of substance
<b>Inorganic Substances</b>							
Fluoride	12/2/24	1.00	0.59 - 1.00	<4	4	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	6/24/24	0.2	N/A	10	10	ppm	Fertilizer runoff; leaking septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	5/17/22	2.0	NA	0	10	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards
Barium	5/17/22	0.032	NA	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	5/17/22	0.43	NA	100	100	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	5/17/22	0.54	NA	50	50	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Water Quality Tests taken throughout the Distribution System</b>							
Haloacetic Acids	9/4/24	16.4	N/A	0	60	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	9/4/24	32.8	N/A	0	80	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Substances</b>							
Alpha emitters	7/5/22	3	ND-3	0	15	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Water Quality Tests taken at the Consumer's Tap Located within Kingbrook Phase III</b>							
Substance	Sample Date	Level Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	# of Samples above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely source of substance
Copper	7/23/22	0.5	0	0	AL = 1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	7/13/22	2.6	0	0	AL = 15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Parameter	Sample Date	# of PSPM	# of PSPM Allowed	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units	Likely source of substance
Total Coliform Bacteria	12/3/24	1	1	0	1	pspm	Naturally present in the environment



**Kingbrook Rural Water System**  
 PO Box 299  
 Arlington, SD 57212  
 605-983-5074  
 kingbrookruralwater.com

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# WATER MATTERS

## FUTURE USE PERMITS



**U**nder South Dakota law, all water resources belong to the public, whether it is surface water in our lakes and rivers, or ground water in aquifers. Anyone can use the water for legitimate purposes, but if the quantity to be exceeds what is considered “domestic use,” a formal permit (water right), is required. The Water Management Board (WMB), with support from the Water Rights Program within the SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, manages our water resources on the public’s behalf.

Most permits to use water are issued to meet a particular and current need. However, certain entities are allowed to reserve water for contemplated or anticipated future needs, so long as there is available unappropriated water and the water would be directed toward an identified beneficial use. Future Use Permits are typically issued to established, or developing, public water suppliers (PWS), such as rural water systems, water user districts or municipalities.

However, Future Use Permits can also be held by entities with a broader water resource management mission, like water development districts. Such entities are not PWSs, but instead reserve water for the benefit of their constituents at some later date. If/when the resource is needed, all or a portion of the



reserved water can be transferred to a PWS, which in turn can put it to use.

The granting of a Future Use Permit is a reservation of a certain amount of water, with a specified priority date. However, it is not a grant of authority to put the water to beneficial use. At such time as a holder wishes to actually use the water, they must again apply to the WMB and demonstrate that all necessary conditions for water use will be met.

Lastly, under state law, any appropriation of water in excess of 10,000 acre-feet/year must first be approved by the State Legislature. Future Use Permits often exceed this amount, and during the 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions, requests from the Lewis & Clark and Western Dakota Regional Water Systems were considered (and approved).

**More information on Future Use Permits can be found at:**

<https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/WaterRights/Legal/Summary.aspx>

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