



Town of Ennis
328 W. Main St.
Ennis, MT 59729
Phone (406) 682-4287
Fax (406) 682-5011

Ennis, March 4th, 2024 – Recent tests have revealed elevated levels of Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QACs) in the sewage system of the Town of Ennis. QACs are commonly used in disinfectants, detergents, and fabric softeners, and their presence in high concentrations can pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

The Town of Ennis is closely monitoring the levels of QACs and taking immediate steps to mitigate any potential harm caused by their presence in the sewage system. Preliminary investigations suggest that the heightened levels of QACs may be linked to industrial discharge or improper disposal of cleaning products by residents and businesses.

Eric Olson, Public Works Director, expresses deep concern over these findings, stating, "The health and well-being of our residents and the preservation of our environment are top priorities for the Town of Ennis. We are taking this matter very seriously and are committed to implementing effective measures to address the situation promptly."

Quaternary ammonium compounds ("QACs" or "quats") are a broad class of several hundred chemicals. First discovered in the early 1940s, QACs are primarily used as active ingredients in antimicrobials, disinfectants, sanitizers, and surfactants. They find applications in various cleaning products, including wood preservatives, herbicides, eye drops, mouthwashes, nasal sprays, detergents, shampoos, dryer sheets, and fabric softeners.

The Town of Ennis urges residents and businesses to exercise caution and responsibility in the use and disposal of products containing QACs. Proper disposal methods should be followed to prevent further contamination of the sewage system and safeguard public health and the environment.