

Public Water Supply System

Picacho Hills Utility

Report to Consumers on Water Quality - 2013

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable water supply that meets or exceeds State and Federal Drinking Water Standards. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells that draw water from the Mesilla Bolson.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all State and Federal requirements for drinking water. This report explains where our water comes from, what it contains, and any known health risks that may exist for the level of contaminants in our drinking water. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) monitors up to 121 potential contaminants at all Water Supply Systems at least once every three years. This report presents the results for all contaminants that were found at or above the detection level by EPA approved methods during the 2013 calendar year. Please contact our office at (575) 526-3491 if you have any questions about this report.

The table (below) presents a summary of results of water testing done by NMED Drinking Water Bureau and by the Water Provider Doña Ana MDWCA during the 2013 calendar year. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the highest amount detected in **all samples taken**, the expected sources of such contamination, and the incidence of violations. The table may contain terms and abbreviations which you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

Non-Detect (ND): Laboratory analysis indicate that the contaminant is not present.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health, i.e. zero risk. The MCL usually accepts a risk of 1 in 1,000,000 or 1 in 100,000 persons.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) measure of the clarity of water.

Key to units: ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

mrem/yr = millirems per year, measure of radiation absorbed by the body

MFL = million fibers per liter, measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers

Source Water Assessment and Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP)

The PHUC Water Supply System is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydro-geologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is **moderately high** because of our urban setting. Please contact the Doña Ana MDWCA office @ (575) 526-3491 to discuss the findings of the SWAPP report.

Our drinking water meets all requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Test Results:

Microbiological Contaminants						
Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Levels [1]	Major Sources	Violations
Total Coliform		24	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	None

*Number of positives from a total of 24 samples.

Inorganic Contaminants						
Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Levels [1]	Major Sources	Violations
Antimony	ppb	6	6	0	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	5.9	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Asbestos	ppb	7	7	0	Erosion of AC water pipe	None
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	50.0	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Chromium	ppb	100	100	0	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.25	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Nickel [2]	ppb	100	-	0	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Nitrate-Nitrite	ppm	10	10	0	Leaching from septic tanks	None
Selenium	ppb	50	50	0	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Thallium	ppb	2	0.5	0	unknown	None

[1] The Highest Detected Level is the highest single amount found among all samples taken.

[2] The State of New Mexico has an MCL for Nickel at 100 ppb, but has not adopted an MCLG.

Radioactive Contaminants						
Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Levels [1]	Major Sources	Violations
Uranium	ug/L	30	0	12	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	0	.38	Erosion of natural deposits	None

Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Levels [1]	Major Sources	Violations
Trihalomethanes	ppm	80	0	Not detected	By-products of chlorinated drinking water	None
Haloacetic Acids	ppm	60	30	Not detected	By-products of chlorinated drinking water	None
Tetrachloroethylene	ppm	.005	0	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	None
Carbon Tetrachloride	ppm	.005	0	0	Discharge from chemical plants and industry	None
Chlorobenzene	ppm	0.1	0.1	0	Discharge from chemical factories	None
O-Dichlorobenzene	ppm	0.6	0.6	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None
1,2-Dichloroethane	ppm	0.005	0	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None
1,1-Dichloroethylene	ppm	0.007	0.007	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	ppm	0.07	0.07	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	none
Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	ppm	0.1	0.1	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None

1,2 Dichloropropane	ppm	0.005	0	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None
Ethylbenzene	ppm	0.7	0.7	0	Discharge from petroleum refineries	None
Benzene	ppm	0.005	0	0	Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills	None
Styrene	ppm	0.1	0.1	0	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories	None
Toluene	ppm	1.0	1.0	0	Discharge from factories and cleaners	None
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	ppm	0.07	0.07	0	Discharge from textile finishing factories	None
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	ppm	0.2	0.2	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & factories	None
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	ppm	0.005	0.003	0	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	None
Trichlorethylene	ppm	0.005	0	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & factories	None
Vinyl chloride	ppm	0.002	0	0	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from plastic factories	None
Xylenes, total	ppm	10	10	0	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories	None
Dichloromethane	ppm	0.005	0	0	Discharge from drug and chemical factories	None

Synthetic Organic Chemicals

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Levels [1]	Major Sources	Violations
Picloram	ppm	0.5	0.5	0	Runoff from herbicide	None
Pentachlorophenol	ppm	0.001	0	0	Discharge from wood preserving factories	None
Dinoseb	ppm	0.007	0.007	0	Runoff from herbicide	None
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	ppm	0.05	0.05	0	Residue of banned herbicide	None
2,4, D	ppm	0.07	0.07	0	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	None

Lead and Copper Rule

Parameter	Units	Action level (AL)	90 th % tile	Major Sources	Violations
Copper [3]	ppb	1300	83.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	None
Lead [4]	ppb	15	8.8	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	None

Additional Information

EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of certain contaminants.

Sources of drinking water for 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 radioactive material, as well as, substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (a) **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa (e.g. *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, *Giardia*) may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- (b) **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- (c) **Pesticides and herbicides** may come from sources such as agriculture, storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- (d) **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems.
- (e) **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas mining and production activities.

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. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained via the Hotline.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Amendments to the SDWA in 1996 require all public water supply systems to provide an annual "Consumer Confidence Report" to their customers. We encourage public interest and participation in our community's water quality and decisions affecting drinking water.

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www.nmenv.state.nm.us

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html

www.epa.gov/ogwdw/agua/apsalud.html (in Spanish)

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

www.epa.gov/ogwdw

www.epa.gov/safewater/agua.html (in Spanish)

American Water Works Association

www.awwa.org

The Groundwater Foundation

www.groundwater.org

*El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*