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

It's the water you drink... now it comes with a list of ingredients. According to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), anything in water that is not H2O is considered a contaminant without regard to whether it is harmful or not. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the regulatory process has set limits, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL), for certain harmful contaminants that may be found in drinking water. But, there are many potential contaminants that, although not common, may find their way into source waters. For this reason drinking water regulations require monitoring for many possible contaminants. Not all contaminants are regulated. MCLs have not been developed for all contaminants that are monitored. The presence of a particular contaminant does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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 every well in the City’s Municipal Water Supply System 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.

Source Water Assessment and Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP)

The Municipal, 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 city Water Resources Section of Utilities to discuss the findings of the SWAPP report.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

Water Resources provides about 7 billion gallons of drinking water to customers in Las Cruces each year. The source of our drinking water is ground water from the Mesilla and Jornada Bolsons. The City has a distributed system of 29 wells within or near the City Limits to supply our community with drinking water of high quality. These wells withdraw water from depths between 300 to 1000 feet. Small amounts of naturally occurring minerals from rock in the aquifer, however, dissolve into the water and account for moderate levels of calcium, manganese, and iron. Their presence can affect the aesthetic quality of the water by increasing hardness and by altering the color and taste slightly. The Source Water Assessment by NMED Drinking Water Bureau provides baseline data about the quality of our water before it is treated and distributed to consumers. This is important because it identifies the origins of potential contaminants, and indicates the susceptibility of our water system to contamination. Because we pump water from deep aquifers the likelihood of this kind of contamination is low, but it can occur under some circumstances and must be evaluated. To learn more about the status of this aspect of our water supply, you may request a copy of the assessment from NMED Drinking Water Bureau, 1170 N. Solano Suite M, Las Cruces, NM, (575) 524-6300.

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. Water Resources of Utilities holds public meetings as needed when specific issues concerning drinking water affect our community. Otherwise, the most effective way to make comments or suggestions is to telephone or write directly to the Administrator of Water Resources (528-3515). Concerns may also be brought before the City Council in their biweekly public meeting. The Las Cruces Utilities Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. Water Resources does not, at this time, conduct regular public meetings, which are devoted to drinking water issues. Water quality data for the Municipal Water Supply System and more information about the Water Resources are available at www.las-cruces.org. The Administrator and staff will be happy to answer any questions, or discuss suggestions you may have, about our drinking water.

Contacts for Information:

ADRIENNE L. WIDMER, P.E., ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
LAS CRUCES UTILITIES
MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces 88004

• www.las-cruces.org

NMED DRINKING WATER BUREAU
575-524-6300 1001 N. Solano, Las Cruces 88005
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

EPA SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE: 800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater/dwanswth.html
www.epa.gov/ogwdw/agua/agsalud.html (in Spanish)

EPA OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER
www.epa.gov/ogwdw
www.epa.gov/softwater/agua.html (in Spanish)

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION: www.awwa.org

THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION: www.groundwater.org

This report can be made available in alternative formats upon request. To make a request call voice telephone 528-3515 or TTY 528-3541.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS
The table (below) presents a summary of results of water testing done by NMED Drinking Water Bureau and by the City during the 2013 calendar year. Detected contaminants from 2011 through 2012 are also listed, if not sampled in 2013. The table contains all contaminants detected in samples taken, the expected sources of such contamination, and the incidence of violations.

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. The MCLG usually accepts a risk of 1 in 10,000 or 1 in 100,000 persons.

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. 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. Las Cruces Municipal 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 water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information about your water and how you can protect your family's health are available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Microbiological Contaminants:
- Bacteria and viruses, e.g., Cryptosporidium, E. coli, Giardia may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Chemicals 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from sources such as agriculture, storm-water runoff, and residential use.
- 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas mining and production activities.

Inorganic Contaminants:
- Antimicrobial agents 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from sources such as agriculture, storm-water runoff, and residential use.
- 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas mining and production activities.

Synthetic Organic Chemicals:
- Acrylamide = 0.05% dosed at 1 mg/L (or equivalent)
- Epichlorohydrin = 0.01% dosed at 20 mg/L (or equivalent)
- Acrylamide and epichlorohydrin are used in drinking water systems, the combination (or product) of dose and monomer level does not exceed the levels specified as follows:
  - Acrylamide: ≤ 0.05% at 30 mg/L (or equivalent)
  - Epichlorohydrin: ≤ 0.01% at 20 mg/L (or equivalent)
  - Each system must certify in writing, to the state (using third-party or manufacturer’s certification) that when acrylamide and epichlorohydrin are used in drinking water systems, the concentration (or product of dose and monomer level) does not exceed the levels specified as follows: