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 Las Cruces Utility Board which 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 Section 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 WIDMER, P.E., ACTING ADMINISTRATOR WATER RESOURCES, LAS CRUCES UTILITIES
Utilities Department: 575-528-3515
P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004
www.las-cruces.org

NMED DRINKING WATER BUREAU
575-524-6300, 1001 N. Solano, Las Cruces, NM 88005
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

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.
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 Jor-nada Bolsons. The City’s West Mesa System has a distribution system with 3 wells that pump water from the Mesilla Bolson. These wells are tested, if not sampled in 2013. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the highest single amount found among all samples taken, the expected sources of such contamination, and the incidence of violation.

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 MCLG usually accepts a risk of 1 in 100,000 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
(a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa (e.g., Cryptosporidium, Ecoli, 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 waste-water 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.

Additional Information
EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulates radiation 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.

Radioactive Contaminants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Highest Detected Levels</th>
<th>Major Sources</th>
<th>Violations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha emitters</td>
<td>µC/L</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta/poison</td>
<td>µC/L</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Decay of natural man-made deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Uranium</td>
<td>µG/L</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radium 226/228</td>
<td>µC/L</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disinfection By-Products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Action level (AL)</th>
<th>90% tile</th>
<th>Major Sources</th>
<th>Violations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Haloacetic Acids</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (4)</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.216</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (5)</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sampling plan identifying the locations of the 2012 samples had not been sent to the State NMED offices for confirmation. Failure to submit the initial distribution system evaluation (IDSE) report to our regulator is a recorded violation. The IDSE has since been submitted to the NMED offices.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained via the Hotline.

Lead: If present in drinking water, 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. The City of Las Cruces 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 HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead" http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead