LAS CRUCES UTILITIES . WATER RESOURCES

2015 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

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

It’s the water we all use for drinking, bathing, and watering the lawn… along with a comprehensive list of ingredients. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) states anything in water that is not H2O is considered a contaminant - harmful or not. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the regulatory process has set limits, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for certain harmful contaminants that may be found in drinking water. But, there are many potential contaminants that, although not common, and not harmful, 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 listing of a particular contaminant does not necessarily pose a health risk. This report explains where our water comes from, what it contains, and where it goes. This report will also give a rating of how hazardous the water is. In order to determine how hazardous the water is, experts have created a susceptibility rank of the entire water system. 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 its 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 1,000 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 (SWA) 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.

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. Concerns may also be brought before the City Council in their biweekly public meeting or the Las Cruces Utilities Board in their monthly public meeting. 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 are available at www.las-cruces.org. The Administrator and her staff will be happy to answer any questions, or discuss suggestions you may have about our drinking water.

Contacts for Information:


AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION: www.awwa.org THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION: www.groundwater.org

This report was made available in alternative formats upon request. To make a request call voice telephone 538-3515 or TTY 538-3541.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que le entienda bien.
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 combination (or product) of dose and monomer level does not exceed the levels specified as follows:

- **Acrylamide** = 0.05% dosed at 1 mg/L (or equivalent)
- **Epichlorohydrin** = 0.01% dosed at 20 mg/L (or equivalent)

[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.

[3] There is no MCL for Copper. None of the 40 sampled sites exceeded the Action Level.

[4] There is no MCL for Lead. None of the 40 sampled sites exceeded the Action Level.

**Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations:** None

**Key Units:**
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- μg/L = micrograms per liter (μg/L)
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (μg/L)
- pci/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- mrems/yr = millirems per year (a measure of radioactive exposure over time)

**Additional Information:**
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 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

**Sources of Drinking Water:**
- 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:
  - 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.
  - Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from soil or land use activities.
  - 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.
  - Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**LIST OF WHAT IS IN YOUR WATER:**

**TEST RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organic Contaminants</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Highest Detected Levels</th>
<th>Major Source</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acrylamide</strong></td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Epichlorohydrin</strong></td>
<td>0.01%</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Synthetic Organic Chemicals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Highest Detected Levels</th>
<th>Major Source</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trichloroethane</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichloroethene</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichlorethene</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichloroene</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Chloroalkanes</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 if infected. 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.

**REgULATED cONTAMINANTS**

The table (to the right) presents a summary of results of water testing done by the NMED Drinking Water Bureau and by the City during the 2014 calendar year. Detected contaminants from 2012 through 2013 are also listed if not sampled in 2014. The table contains only those contaminants, 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 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 technologies.

**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 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.