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WATER QUALITY REPORT 2022

SANDIA KNOLLS WATER SYSTEM

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Por favor lea este infome o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

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ABOUT YOUR WATER QUALITY

At New Mexico Water Service (New Mexico Water), our goal is to deliver safe, high-quality drinking water, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. As part of that effort, we produce this annual water quality report, which includes information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. **Most importantly, it confirms that in 2022, our water met or surpassed all standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New Mexico Environment Department to protect public health.**

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YOUR WATER SYSTEM



The water supply for the Sandia Knolls water system is pumped from two wells that are drilled into the Sandia Water Basin. The water pumped from the aquifer is disinfected and stored in four steel reservoirs that provide 200,000 gallons of storage.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION

The Sandia Knolls water system is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential contamination by well construction, hydrogeology, and system operations and management. However, the susceptibility of the system is classified as “moderately high,” due to the potential contamination from septic systems and nearby roadways. No associated contaminants have been detected from these potential sources. Please contact New Mexico Water to discuss the findings for the Source Water Assessment and Protection Plan (SWAPP) report.

FOR DETAILS ON THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

New Mexico Water Service
Attn: Martin Torrez
401 Horner Street
Rio Communities, NM 87002
(505) 744-5974
mtorrez@newmexicowater.com

If you would like more information or have questions about your water service, please contact us:

Address: 401 Horner Street
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Phone: (505) 864-2218
Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
(closed noon–1 p.m.)



POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lake, 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 in some cases radioactive material—and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activities. Prior to entering the distribution system, source water with constituents over maximum contaminant levels is treated to reduce levels to meet standards set by public health experts.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.



ABOUT LEAD

As the issue of lead in water continues to be top of mind for many Americans, New Mexico Water wants to assure you about the quality of your water.

None of these conditions exist at New Mexico Water. We have worked proactively to eliminate lead-bearing materials from our water systems, and we are compliant with health and safety codes mandating the installation of lead-free materials in public water systems. We test our water sources to ensure that the water we deliver to customers' meters meets water quality standards and is not corrosive toward plumbing materials. The water we deliver may meet lead standards, but what about your home plumbing? Because lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing, the Lead and Copper Rule is a critical part of our water quality monitoring program.

The Lead and Copper Rule requires us to test water *inside* a representative number of homes with plumbing most likely to contain lead and/or lead solder (those built before 1986). This test, with other water quality testing, tells us if the water is corrosive enough to cause lead from home plumbing to leach into the water. If the "Action Level" for lead is exceeded, we work with our customers to investigate the issue and, if necessary, implement corrosion control before the lead levels create a health issue.

Elevated levels of lead, if present, can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. If your home's plumbing contains lead piping or pipe fittings, lead solder, or brass fixtures that may contain lead, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 by a certified lab. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

In your system, results of our lead monitoring program, conducted in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule, were 2.4 parts per billion. The EPA's Action Level for lead is 15 parts per billion.



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manmade compounds that have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease, or stains. These compounds are also used for firefighting at airfields, which is one way they have found their way into groundwater in certain areas.

In March 2023, EPA issued a proposed national primary drinking water regulation for certain PFAS. The proposed regulation calls for a maximum containment level for PFOS and PFOA of 4 ppt each. Four additional PFAS—PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX— would have a combined hazard index limit of 1.0; the hazard index calculation would determine if the levels of these PFAS as a mixture pose a potential risk.

Studies indicate that long-term exposure to PFAS over certain levels could have adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or infants; cancer; or impacts on liver, immunity, thyroid, and other functions. Potential health effects related to PFAS are still being studied, and research is still evolving on this issue.

While we are doing our part to treat the water and meet the standards public health experts have set, it's important that our population as a whole focuses on being good stewards of the environment and takes steps to prevent impacting the water supply.

TABLE INTRODUCTION

New Mexico Water tests your water for more than 140 regulated contaminants and dozens of unregulated contaminants. This table lists only primary contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report (unless otherwise noted).

See the **Potential Contaminants** web page for a complete list of contaminants we test for.

The EPA and state of New Mexico require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change rapidly.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, and those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly people; and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Our testing equipment is so sensitive, it can detect constituents as small as 1 part per trillion. That is equivalent to 1 inch over 15 million miles.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required action by the water provider.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is significant evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Treatment technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

TABLE KEY

NA	Not applicable
pCi/L	picoCuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)
ppb	parts per billion (micrograms per liter)
ppm	parts per million (milligrams per liter)
µg/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water

Disinfectants & Disinfectant Byproducts	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Year Tested	Unit	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Chlorine (as CL ₂)	4	4	0.72	0.21	2.0	2022	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs (total trihalomethanes)	NA	80	0.729	0.534	0.729	2022	µg/L	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Year Tested	Unit	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Nitrate (measured as nitrogen)	10	10	1.13	1.13	1.13	2022	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	0.23	0.23	0.23	2020	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Arsenic	0	10	0.001	0.001	0.001	2020	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Sodium	NA	NA	16	16	16	2020	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Barium	2	2	0.024	0.024	0.024	2020	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Year Tested	Unit	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	2.2	2.2	2.2	2020	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation
Combined radium 226/228	0	5	0.8	0.8	0.8	2020	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	0	30	2	2	2	2020	µg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	AL	90 th Percentile	Samples > AL		Year Tested	Unit	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Lead—action level at consumer taps	0	15	2.4	0		2020	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper—action level at consumer taps	1.3	1.3	0.13	0		2020	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

SANDIA KNOLLS WATER SYSTEM FAILED TO CORRECT SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES WITHIN REQUIRED TIME FRAME

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

A routine sanitary survey conducted in 2022 by the New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau (NMED DWB) found.

1. No inspection of the Sky View Storage Tank

As required by Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Ground Water Rule, we were required to correct these deficiencies. However, we failed to take this action by the deadline established by the NMED DWB.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

The Sandia Knolls Water System has received a quote for the inspection of the Skyview Storage Tank. The tank inspection will be scheduled within the next couple of months.

For more information, please contact:

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Elephant Butte, NM 87935
(505) 313-3344

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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Thanks for taking the time to learn more
about your water quality! Even more
information awaits you at
www.newmexicowater.com.

Visit our web site to get information about your account, water rates, and water
system. And, as always, you can reach us by phone or at our Customer Center.



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THANK YOU.



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