

# 2010 Water Quality Report

## **Spanish (Español)**

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

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 10 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

The Town of Bernalillo pumps drinking water from two wells on the west side of the Rio Grande. Municipal Well #3 is located on US Highway 550 just west of Home Depot and is 660 feet in depth. Well #3 has a pumping capacity of 570 gallons per minute. Municipal Well #4 is located on NM Highway 528 across from Wal-Mart and is 970 feet in depth. Well #4 has a pumping capacity of 1,250+ gallons per minute. Well #4 is the primary operating well for the Town with Well #3 operating during peak summer months.

The Town also has two wells on the East side of Interstate 25 that are currently off line and not pumping water into our drinking water system.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

The Town of Bernalillo has 1,514 acre feet of water rights for use in our municipal water system with additional transfers pending. The Town has sufficient water rights for current needs and for projected need through 2015. The Town is diligently pursuing additional water rights to meet the anticipated demand for future growth.

The Town of Bernalillo water system is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is Moderately High.

The report is now available at the State of New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau, 525 Camino de Los Marquez, Suite 4 Santa Fe NM 87505.

Copies may also be requested by emailing the Drinking Water Bureau at SWAPP@nmev.state.nm.us or by calling toll free 1-877-654-8720. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, and name of water system. NMED-DWB may charge a nominal fee for paper copies.

### **Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking Water**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **How can I get involved?**

Town staff and engineers periodically updates the Town Council and the public on the status of our drinking water quality and at Town Council meetings that occur the second and fourth Monday of each month. Additional information is provided in water billings and in the monthly Town Newsletter. Customers may always call the Town of Bernalillo with questions, concerns or requests for information at (505)867-3311.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

The Town failed to perform three total coliform in January, 2010. We are required to take ten samples and only performed seven. All seven samples were free of any coliform. From February through December we were compliant with all sampling and did not exceed the MCL.

## Additional Information for Lead

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. Town of Bernalillo 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>.

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## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	1.51	NA		2008	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.36	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	59	5.4	59	2010	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.046	NA		2009	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.8	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

#### Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2010	No	Naturally present in the environment
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#### Volatile Organic Contaminants

Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0.00091	ND	0.00091	2010	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
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<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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#### Inorganic Contaminants

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.15	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

#### Violations and Exceedances

##### Arsenic

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The April, 2010 quarterly sample was 59ppb exceeding the standard of 10ppb. Installed a ferric treatment system and sampling at less than 10ppb for the last three quarters and we anticipate remaining in compliance.

## Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

#### Unit Descriptions

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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