

2011 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 15 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.

The Town now has a mutual connect with the City of Rio Rancho's for emergency water supply. When this connection is activated, Rio Rancho's water flows into our distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Town of Bernalillo now in excess of 2,000.00 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 2035. 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, hydro-geologic 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 update 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 for more information.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

In June, 2011 we failed to complete all the required micro-biological samples of our drinking water. However, we were back in compliance with these samples in July, 2011.

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>.

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</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(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
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	0.2	0.1	0.2	2011	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.7	0.17	2.7	2011	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. There are no detectable nitrates in the Town's water supply.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.17	0.35	1.17	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. The low value is attributed to the Town's water supply.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	19	4.85	19	2011	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	0.049	0.05	2011	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.6	1.5	2.6	2011	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.0032	ND	0.0032	2007	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. There is no detectable nitrite in the Town's water supply system.
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2011	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	6.9	ND	6.9	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. There are no alpha emitters in the Town's water supply system.
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	10.3	2.6	10.3	2011	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. There are no detectable beta/photon emitters in the Town's water
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.4	ND	0.4	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. There is no detectable radium in the Town's water supply system.

Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	7	1	7	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Please note that the high value is due to the contribution of water from the Rio Rancho system used to supplement the Town's supply during emergency situations. The is no detectable uranium in the Town's water supply system.
<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>	
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 violation occurred in the Third Quarter (Q3/11) and ended at the end of the quarter. The Town determined that the violation was due to operator error of the treatment system. Operation of the system was corrected and subsequent test results have shown compliance with the standard.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
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

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: María G. Rinaldi, Director of Community Development and Capital Programs

Address:

PO Box 638

Bernalillo, NM 87004

Phone: (505)867-3311

Fax: (505)867-0481

E-Mail: mrinaldi@townofbernalillo.org

Website: www.townofbernalillo.org