2024 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report

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ESPAÑOL (Spanish)

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda. Si tiene preguntas, llama NMSU EH&S a 575-646-3327.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - WHAT IS IT?

This report describes the water system operated by New Mexico State University. It provides 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 (and may include previous years' results, where applicable), and meets requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the Safe Drinking Water regulations.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES SAFE DRINKING WATER

New Mexico State University provides high quality drinking water that is safe and has not exceeded any contaminant levels established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Safe Drinking Water Standards" during the past year. In order to ensure the quality of our water, the Facilities & Services Department at New Mexico State University routinely samples the water supply and tests for over 125 contaminants. These contaminants include 10 heavy metals, 50 semi-volatile organic compounds (SOCs), 58 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pH, hardness, iron, nitrates, fluoride, lead, copper, sulfates, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids and alkalinity. The tables located on pages two and three contain a listing of contaminants that were detected over the past year, as well as select non-detected constituents. None of these contaminants exceeded "Safe Drinking Water Standards."

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES MONITOR WATER QUALITY

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water that is provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791), or by visiting https://www.epa.gov/groundwater-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information.

To protect public health, the EPA and New Mexico Environment Department set maximum contaminant levels, maximum contaminant level goals and action levels for contaminants. Drinking water regulations may also require water treatment techniques.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	NA	ND	Monthly	Naturally present in the environment	None
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	A routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.	NA	ND	Monthly	E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms.	None

In addition to monitoring for bacteria, NMSU regularly monitors disinfectant levels in our drinking water distribution system. All 2022 results indicated disinfectant concentrations within allowable regulatory limits.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Detected Level	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Beta/photon emitters	(pCi/l)	50	0	N/A	8.1	7/14/2023	Decay of natural and manmade deposits	None
Alpha emitters	(pCi/l)	15	0	N/A	3.0	7/14/2023	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Combined radium	(pCi/l)	5	0	N/A	0.6	7/14/2023	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Combined Uranium (Treatment Plant #14)	Ug/L	30	0	N/A	7.0	7/14/2023	Erosion of natural deposits	None

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Detected Level	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Antimony	ppb	6	6	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder	None
Arsenic	ppb	0.010	0	2 - 2	2	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards	None
Asbestos	MFL	7	7	ND	ND	12/3/2012	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits	None
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.059 – 0.059	0.059	2024	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Beryllium	ppb	4	4	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	None
Cadmium	ppb	5	5	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits	None

Chromium	ppb	100	100	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Erosion of natural deposits	None
Cyanide	ppb	200	200	ND	ND	7/13/2022	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories	None

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (continued)

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Detected Level	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Fluoride [(2)]	ppm	4	4	0.48-0.48	0.48	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	None
Mercury (inorganic)	ppb	2	2	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from croplands	None
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	0.05-0.07	0.07	7/13/2023	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	None
Selenium	ppb	50	50	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines	None
Thallium	ppb	m	0.5	ND	ND	9/20/2021	Leaching from ore-processing sites	None

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Detected Level	Sample Date	LRAA (Note 2)	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.9 - 1	1	2024	NA	Water additive used to control microbes	None
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	0.82 - 34	34	2024	0.29	By-products of chlorinated drinking water	None
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	5.8 - 7.4	3	2024	5	By-products of chlorinated drinking water	None

LEAD AND COPPER RULE

Parameter	Units	Action Level (AL)	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Detected Level (Note 3)	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contaminants	Violations
Lead	ppm	0.015	0.00091 - 0.036	0.0034	7/11/2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	NA
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.0042 - 0.49	0.29	7/11/2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	NA

1) Fluoride is not added by NMSU.

2) Locational Running Annual Averages (LRAA's) are calculated quarterly for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids, based on four sampling locations.

3) There are no MCL's for copper or lead. Result reported is the 90th percentile value based on 10 samples; none exceeded the AL. Public Notification occurred in April 2022 for a 2021 non-sampling violation (NMSU had acquired 29 of 30 required samples; this was corrected in 2022).

Important Drinking Water Definitions

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. New Mexico State University 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.

We were required to provide a lead service line inventory to NMED. For a copy of the inventory please contact us at (575) 646-3327.

Term **Definition**

Unit Descriptions

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.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
NA	Not Applicable	MFL	Millions of fibers per liter
ND	Not Detected	ppb	parts per billion (µg/liter)
pCi/l	Picocuries per liter	ppm	parts per million (mg/liter)

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

For more information please contact:

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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).

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This report is available online at: https://safety.nmsu.edu/environmental/drinking-water-information.html. Copies may be requested by e-mailing New Mexico State University Environmental Health Safety and Risk Management at environmental@nmsu.edu, or by calling (575) 646-3327.

New Mexico State University provides high quality potable water that meets all applicable state and federal drinking water standards.

In 2024 NMSU obtained potable water from four wells, all located on the Las Cruces campus (south of University Avenue and west of Espina Street). Each of these wells draw water from sediments within the Rio Grande fluvial aquifer. Groundwater disinfection is achieved by the addition of sodium hypochlorite, at each well, prior to distribution to NMSU facilities.

New Mexico State University recognizes that our water source not only supplies our campus community but the local Las Cruces community as well. We take pride in supplying our campus community with safe, great tasting drinking water.

NMSU Facilities and Services strives to ensure that not only the water we pump out of the ground is safe, but the source is protected in every way possible through ground-water protection measures.

A Source Water Assessment, conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), is available by contacting the NMED Drinking Water Bureau at 505-476-8620.

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SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT