

Belen 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 11 of those contaminants, and found only 2 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?

Water Source comes from the San Juan Aquifer; it is pumped from 5 wells at different locations. The City of Belen's water wells are daily maintained and inspected for proper operation and vandalism. The City has made many improvements to our water supply system in the past and will continue to improve and upgrade its water production system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Belen water system is well maintained and operated. Sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydro geologic settings, system operation and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is HIGH, although throughout the United States it is common to find potential sources of contamination located atop wellheads. Continued regulatory oversight, wellhead protection plans, and other planning effort continue to be primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water. The report was provided to the Belen water system, available at the State of New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Ste.4 Santa Fe, NM 87505. Copies may also be requested from the Drinking Water Bureau by calling (505-476-8620 or toll free 1-877-654-8720). Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, and the name of your water system. NMED-DWB may charge a nominal fee for paper work.

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). The sources of drinking water (both 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, 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 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 chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order 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.

How can I get involved?

The Belen City Council meets every first and third Monday of every month at 6:00 pm, at City Hall. 100 South main Street Belen NM 87002.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

We are required to report the values of the chlorine residuals on a quarterly basis. We failed to report these chlorine residuals and therefore received a violation for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2010.

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. Belen 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.52	ND	1.52	2008	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	2.75	ND	2.75	2008	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.8	0.002	1.83	2010	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	24	1.9	24	2008	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	22.4	3.5	22.4	2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.72	0.86	1.72	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.2	0.26	2.2	2010	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	8	NA		2010	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.4	0.23	0.4	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	7.7	2	7.7	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	6	4	6	2007	No	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 during 2010 to present. Point of use treatment devices were installed at well #6 to reduce the arsenic concentration that will meet the requirements of the regulations. The water system is currently working on a treatment plan to be installed at well #8 (Cavco Well).								
Total Coliform								
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. There were four isolated Violations throughout the year 4/1/2010 to 4/30/2010, 8/1/2010 to 8/31/2010, 9/1/2010 to 9/30/2010 and 11/1/2010 to 11/30/2010. Water system was shocked chlorinated and steps were taken to ensure disinfection.								
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 (ug/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.							
Variations and Exemptions	Variations 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:

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To see a larger copy of this report go to: www.belen-nm.gov