City of Belen
2016 Consumer Quality Report

Spanish (Español)
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniques con alguien que puede 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, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last years 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 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 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 healthcare 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?**

Belen's Water Supply comes from Wells located on the West Mesa.

Source water assessment and its availability
The Belen 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 High.

Where are the contaminants in my drinking water?
Drinking water, including bottles 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 presence of animal or 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; 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 resulted of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food 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?
Belen City Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of each month beginning at 6PM.

Water Conservation Tips
Did you know that there 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. Faucets 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 it, 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 you kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next months water bill! Visit **www.epa.gov/watersense** for more information.

Administrative Orders
In May 2011 an Administrative Compliance Order was issued against Belen Water System for exceeding the EPA mandated MCL of 10 ppb for Arsenic. The Belen Water System has installed point of use (POU) treatment devices within the distribution system at the Belen Industrial Park to lower arsenic levels in the drinking water. Testing conducted during 2016 indicated that drinking water provided by the POU devices in compliance with arsenic 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. Belen Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials and components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 second 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.eps.gov/ safewater/lead.

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.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, AVERAGE	7/1/2016	9/30/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called the maximum containment level and abbreviated MCL) for the period. Public notification was sent via posting on our website. We have done a PER Report, and actively looking for funding for treatment.
MCL, AVERAGE	10/1/2016	12/31/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called the maximum containment level and abbreviated MCL) for the period. Public notification was sent via posting on our website. We have done a PER Report, and actively looking for funding for treatment.

Ground water Rule

The Ground Water Rule specifies the appropriate us of disinfection while addressing other components of ground water systems to ensure public health protection.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FAILURE ADDRESS DEFICEINCY (GWR)	1/7/2016	1/25/2017	We failed to properly respond to significant deficiency in our water system. The deficiency was Failure to Report. Notification was given on our website.
FAILURE ADDRESS DEFICEINCY (GWR)	4/3/2016	1/25/2017	We failed to properly respond to significant deficiency in our water system. The deficiency was Failure to Report. Notification was given on our website.

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g. a boiling water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	9/25/2013	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. Notification was posted on our website and posting at various locations around the city.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	12/4/2014	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. Notification was posted on our website and posting at various locations around the city.

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 Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectants is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	0.9	0.8	0.9	2016	**No**	Water additive is used to control microbes
Halo acetic Acids (HAA5)(ppb)	NA	60	1	0	.58	2016	**No**	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3	2.9	2.9	2016	**No**	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	11	0	19	2016	**Yes**	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics productions wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	10	0	10	2014	**No**	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	130	63	130	2015	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.17	1.17	1.17	2014	**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	0	1.84	2016	**No**	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coli form (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	NA		2016	**No**	Naturally present in the environment.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (Combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.19	0.02	0.19	2014	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	5.9	4.4	5.9	2014	**No**	Decay of natural & man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta Particles.
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.8	0	4.8	2014	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	6	4	6	2014	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper- action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.18	2014	0	**No**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead- action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2014	0	**No**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

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.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm : part per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb : part per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L : picocuries per liter (a measure of redioactivity)
Positive samples/month	Positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be posit
NA	NA : not applicable
ND	ND : not detected
NR	NR : Monitoring not required, but recommended

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Containment Level Goal: The level of Contaminant in drinking water below which is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment
TT	TT: Treatment technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permissions not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG MRDL	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there no known expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of MRDL: Maximum residual 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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