

# 2014 Consumer 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 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 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 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 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 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 result 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 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 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 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.

### Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater (water heater not included), Underground lawn sprinkler system, Additional source (s) of water on the property, Decorative pond, Watering trough.

### 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 2014 indicated that drinking water provided by the POU devices is 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 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 Low	High	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectants is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	0.7	0.6	0.7	2014	No	Water additive is used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)(ppb)	NA	60	1	.19	1	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3	3	3	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	26	ND	26	2014	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)	NA	MPL	140	110	140	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.83	0.93	1.83	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	0.45	2.15	2014	No	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coli form (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	0	4	2014	Yes	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
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	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
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: In August 2014 the total Coliform rule was exceeded. Repeat samples were taken and isolated problem was corrected.								
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 was at the Belen Industrial Park 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014. Point of use treatment units were installed.								
<b>Unit Descriptions</b>								
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 radioactivity)							
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							
<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>								
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.							
Variations and Exemptions	Variations 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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