

# 2022 Consumer Confidence Report for Belen Public Water System

**Water System Name:** Belen Public Water System

**Water System ID:** NM3524932

**Name/Phone Number/Email of Administrative Contact:** Oscar Diaz/ 505-217-6239/ oscardiaz@belen-nm.gov

## (Español)

Me contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que puede traducir la ón.

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report, or Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), 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 complies with standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information on the water quality because informed customers are our best allies. Out of the contaminants tested for, 14 were detected. Out of those 14 contaminants that were detected, only arsenic was above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppb. The level of arsenic found in the water was 11 ppb. For more information on why the water exceeded drinking water standards, please refer to the **Violations** section at the end of this document and review the **additional information given on arsenic**.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to drinking water contaminants than the general population. Examples of people who may be more susceptible are those who are immunocompromised (e.g., recently accepted an organ transplant or undergoing chemotherapy), suffering from HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and at higher risk of infection (e.g., infants and elderly people). These people should seek advice about their drinking water from their healthcare provider. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on how to reduce the risk of exposure to Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the Safe Drinking Water hotline at **800-426-4791**.

## Where does my water come from?

Belen's water supply is groundwater and it comes from wells generally located in the west part of the City along Interstate 25.

## Source water assessment and its availability:

The water system's source of drinking water is protected from potential contamination based on well construction, hydrogeological settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is "high". This could mean any of the following: the system has a high likelihood of contamination, the system is vulnerable if contamination does occur, and the consequences are expensive in terms of public health and finances if the system cannot recover. **Consumers can contact Oscar Diaz at 505-217-6239 or oscardiaz@belen-nm.gov.**

## Where do contaminants in my drinking water come from?

Drinking water, including bottled water, is expected to contain at least trace amounts of contaminants. However, the presence of contaminants at relatively low concentrations is not a threat to human health. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline at **800-426-4791**.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land surface or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, which occasionally include radioactive materials. As previously mentioned, radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring, or emerge from mining and production of oil and gas. The water can also pick up contaminants originating from animal or human activity. Harmful microorganisms can infect the water through the leaching of septic systems, runoff from sewage treatment plants, and runoff from agricultural livestock operations. Inorganic contaminants, such as metals and salts, may be naturally occurring, or may contaminate the water via urban stormwater runoff, domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. Chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, can be by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also originate from urban stormwater runoff, gas stations, and septic systems. Although many of the possible avenues for contamination were mentioned, it should be noted that runoff from any contamination source is not a major concern when the drinking water source is groundwater. However, this assumes the groundwater wells are completely sealed off from the environment. In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants allowed in the water.

## How can I get involved?

Belen City Council meetings are held at 6pm the first and third Monday of each month.

## Water conservation tips:

- Take shorter showers.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead.
- Only run your washer and dishwasher when they are full.
- Only water your plants as needed.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets.
- Adjust your sprinklers such that only the lawn gets watered, not the sidewalk.

To learn more about how to save water and money on your next water bill, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## Cross-connection control survey:

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether cross-connections exist at your home or business. Cross-connections are unprotected or improper connections to a public water distribution system, and they may cause contamination of the entire system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants, under any flow conditions, can enter the distribution system. If you have a **boiler/radiant heater (water heater not included), underground lawn sprinkler system, other additional water sources on property, decorative pond, and/or water trough**, please contact Oscar Diaz to discuss this issue. If necessary, your connection will be surveyed and possibly isolated.

## Administrative orders:

Belen Public Water System has 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 in 2021 indicated that the POU devices were in compliance; however, Well 8 is producing water with 11 ppb of arsenic, which is slightly above the MCL of 10 ppb. The water system was issued an administrative order on September 8, 2017 for exceeding the arsenic MCL of 10 ppb. Belen has been in violation from 2011 to 2021. As of 2022, the Arsenic Treatment Plant completed construction, but not until later in the calendar year on 10/31/2022. The upcoming calendar year, the City expects to be in compliance with arsenic.

## Additional information on arsenic:

Consumption of elevated levels of arsenic present both acute and long-term health effects. Immediate symptoms of arsenic poisoning include vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. The aforementioned symptoms can be followed by numbness and tingling in the extremities, muscle cramping, and sometimes death. In the case of a groundwater source for drinking water, arsenic comes from the dissolution of natural rock formations as water flows through the underground aquifer. If Belen's drinking water were unsafe, the City would be forced to stop distributing it. However, the arsenic concentration is only 1 ppb above the MCL of 10 ppb, and the MCL itself has an adequate margin of safety. If the customer feels uncomfortable consuming the water, they can opt to drinking bottled water. For more information regarding arsenic in drinking water, call the Safe Drinking Water hotline or visit [www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/chemical-contaminant-rules](http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/chemical-contaminant-rules).

## Additional information on lead:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. In infants and children, exposure may cause delays in physical or mental development, and slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. In adults, exposure may cause kidney problems and high blood pressure. Primarily, lead in drinking water comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Belen Public Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials and components in customers' homes. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize your risk of exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before consuming. 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 ways to minimize risk of exposure can be found by calling the Safe Drinking Water hotline or visiting [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Water Quality Data Table**

To ensure the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in the water. The table below lists the detectable drinking water contaminants during the calendar year of this report. Although several more contaminants were tested, only those listed below were found in the water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful. Removing all contaminants is not feasible on a large scale, and actually wouldn't improve the protection of public health. In fact, some naturally occurring minerals enhance the taste of the water and have nutritional value at low levels. The respective dates and years when these tests were conducted are given in the table below. A public water system serving 10,000 or more people is required to produce a CCR every year, but monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year. For this reason, you may notice some the data, though representative, is more than one year old. In addition to the water quality data, units and commonly used abbreviations are defined at the end of this table.

<b>Regulated Contaminants</b>	<b>MCLG or MRDLG</b>	<b>MCL, TT, MRDL</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Low end of range</b>	<b>High end of range</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Sources and Health Effects</b>
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine as $Cl_2$ (ppm)	4	4.0	1.2	0.6	1.2	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbial contaminants. Exposure causes eye/nose irritation, stomach discomfort, and anemia.
Haloacetic Acids, abbreviated HAA5 (ppb)	N/A	60	5.4	0	5.4	2022	No	Disinfection by-product. Exposure may cause an increased risk of cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes, abbreviated TTHM (ppb)	N/A	80	19	1.9	19	2022	No	Disinfection by-product. Exposure increases the risk of cancer and attacks the liver, kidney, and central nervous system.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	11	2	11	2022	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits. Exposure increases risk of getting cancer and causes damage to both skin and circulatory systems.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.022	0.022	0.022	06/29/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Exposure causes an increase in blood pressure.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	10	10	10	06/29/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Exposure causes allergic dermatitis.
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	1.01	1.01	1.01	06/29/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits and water additives purposed to promote dental health. Excessive exposure causes bone disease, and children may get mottled teeth.
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	1.89	0	1.89	2022	No	Runoff from farmland where fertilizer is used; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; and erosion of natural deposits. Infants below the age of 6 could become seriously ill, and if left untreated may die. Symptoms of exposure include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Microbial Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1 positive monthly sample	1	ND	ND	2022	No	Naturally present in the environment as well as in animal and human fecal waste. Not a health hazard itself, but rather an indicator if more harmful bacteria are present.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.06	0.06	0.06	01/10/20	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Exposure may cause an increased risk of cancer.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	3.7	1	3.7	01/10/20	No	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that emit alpha radiation. Exposure may cause increased risk of cancer.
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	4	4	4	01/10/20	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Exposure may cause increased risk of cancer and kidney toxicity.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead-action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	TT; AL=15	0	ND	ND	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits. In infants and children, exposure can cause delays in physical and mental development. In adults, exposure can cause kidney problems and high blood pressure.
Copper- action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	TT; AL=1.3	0.06	ND	ND	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits. Short-term exposure can cause gastrointestinal distress. Long-term exposure can cause liver and kidney damage.
Unit Descriptions								
Term				Definition				
ug/L				Micrograms per liter				
ppm				Parts per million, or milligrams per liter of contaminant in water				
ppb				Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter of contaminant in water				
pCi/L				Picocurie per liter (a measure of radioactivity)				
mrem/yr				Millirems per year (a measure of radioactivity)				
positive samples/month				Number of samples taken during the month that were found to be positive				
ND				Not detectable				
N/A				Not applicable				
NR				Monitoring not required, but recommended				

**Important Drinking Water Definitions (directly from epa.gov, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations)**

Term	Definition
MCLG	Abbreviation for “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 and are non-enforceable public health goals.
MCL	Abbreviation for “maximum contaminant level”. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology and taking cost into consideration. MCLs are enforceable standards.
TT	Abbreviation for “treatment technology”. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Abbreviation for “action level”. The level of concentration of a harmful or toxic contaminant that when exceeded is considered sufficient to warrant regulatory or remedial action.
MRDLG	Abbreviation for “maximum residual disinfectant 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	Abbreviation for “maximum residual disinfectant level”. The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Violations**

**Arsenic:** People who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years are at risk of developing skin damage, problems with their circulatory system, and cancer.

The City of Belen received two types of arsenic violations in 2022. The City received violations in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2022 for exceeding the arsenic MCL of 10 ppb. The City received other violations in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2022 for not collecting the correct number of point of use (POU) drinking water samples from the Arm Kitchen and Arm Kitchen ice maker. The consumer can refer to the public notices for more information.

**Ground Water Rule (GWR):** The Ground Water Rule specifies appropriate use of disinfectants while addressing other components of groundwater systems to ensure public health protection.

The City of Belen received a GWR violation the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 for not monitoring and reporting disinfectant residuals in the distribution system. The consumer can refer to the public notice for more information.

**Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR):** The Revised Total Coliform Rule seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence in the water indicate the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, headaches, etc.

The City of Belen received a RTCR violation the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 for not meeting the Total Coliform monitoring requirements. The consumer can refer to the public notice for more information.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**Belen Water System Has Levels of Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standards**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for arsenic. The standard for arsenic is 0.010 mg/L. The table below shows the dates, locations, and values detected:

Sample Location	Quarter & Year	RAA mg/L
Cavco Well Treatment	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022	0.011

**What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, 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.

**What is being done?**

Arsenic Treatment plant is now in operation.

**For more information, please contact:**

Ralph Jaramillo at 505-966-2752  
Belen Water System, NM3524932  
100 S. Main  
Belen, NM 87002

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail\**

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Sample Location	Quarter & Year	RAA mg/L
Cavco Well Treatment	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022	0.011

**What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, 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.

**What is being done?**

An Arsenic Treatment Facility is currently under construction with expected completion date of 10/31/2022.

**For more information, please contact:** Oscar

Diaz at 505-966-2730

Belen Water System, NM3524932

100 S. Main

Belen, NM 87002

***\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail\****

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Not Met for**  
**Belen Water System**

***Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.***

On 10/31/2022 we became aware that our system failed to collect the correct number of drinking water samples. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

*\*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Table 1 list the contaminants and the compliance periods which we did not monitor or test and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the compliance periods.\**

**Table 1**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Compliance Period</b>
Arsenic	POU Arm Kitchen (Ice Maker)-019	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022
Arsenic	POU Arm Kitchen (Ice Maker)-019	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2022
Arsenic	POU Arm Kitchen- 020	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022
Arsenic	POU Arm Kitchen- 020	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2022

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

**What is being done?**

Samples are currently Being taken and submitted to NMENV.

**For more information, please contact:**

Oscar Diaz 505-966-2730  
Belen Water System, NM3524932  
100 S. Main  
Belen, NM 87002

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**Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Not Met for**  
**Belen Water System**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what we did to correct these situations.

The Belen Water System water system did not report disinfectant residuals collected from distribution during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 (February & March).

*\*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the above quarter we did not complete all monitoring or testing for disinfectant residuals and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.\**

Additionally, we are required to submit monitoring data to the state for the various drinking water standards. Belen Water System water system is required to submit a report of the monthly disinfectant residuals on a quarterly basis to the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau (NMED DWB). Belen Water System water system did not meet the monitoring and reporting requirements for this drinking water regulation. This resulted in a violation.

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

**What happened? What is being done?**

Belen Water System water system will submit a report of the precise disinfectant residuals to the NMED DWB by the specified date outlined in the drinking water regulations. We returned to compliance on 4/12/2022

**For more information, please contact:**

Ralph Jaramillo at 505-966-2752  
Belen Water System, NM3524932  
100 S. Main  
Belen, NM 87002

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Belen Water System Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

***We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During February 2022, we did not complete all monitoring requirements for Total Coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.***

### What should you do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

### What does this mean?

Our water system is required by law to collect nine monthly total coliform samples. During this reporting period, we did not collect all the required samples.

### What happened? What is being done?

Samples were collected and system put back in compliance

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Date that system collected next valid routine sample: 3/2022

(Note: A system will not return to compliance until a lab has analyzed a routine sample).

For more information, please contact Ralph Jaramillo at 505-966-2752 or 100 S. Main, Belen, NM 87002.