



## 2008 Consumer Confidence 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.

### 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 the City of Hobbs' water come from?

The City of Hobbs' only water source is the Ogallala Aquifer. The aquifer is like an underground lake located approximately 80 feet beneath our community. To draw water from the Aquifer, the City of Hobbs operates 28 wells. The only treatment this high quality water requires before delivery to your tap is chlorination. Following simple water conservation rules will help ensure the continued availability of water from the Ogallala Aquifer.

### Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Hobbs worked with the New Mexico Environmental Department to perform a Source Water Assessment. The susceptibility analysis of the City of Hobbs water supply system reveals that the system is well maintained and the source of drinking water is protected from potential sources of contamination. The Susceptibility Rank of the City of Hobbs water system is Moderately Low. A copy of this report may be obtained from the State of New Mexico-Environmental Department-Drinking Water Bureau, 525 Camino de Los Marquez, Ste. 4, Santa Fe, NM 87505.



### 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring and result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or 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 City of Hobbs Utilities Department meets with the Utilities Board in a Public Meeting on the first Thursday of each annual quarter at 3:00 pm in the City Commission Chambers (Jan., Apr., Jul., & Oct.). For more information about the Utilities Department, Policies, Announcements, and Service information, please visit our webpage at [www.hobbsnm.org/department/utilities](http://www.hobbsnm.org/department/utilities).

# Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	<b>60</b>	<b>ND</b>	ND	ND	2008	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	<b>80</b>	<b>2.7</b>	ND	2.7	2008	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Antimony (ppb)	6	<b>6</b>	<b>0.13</b>	ND	0.13	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	<b>10</b>	<b>7.8</b>	6.5	7.8	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	<b>2</b>	<b>0.07</b>	0.06	0.07	2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	<b>4</b>	<b>0.25</b>	ND	0.25	2008	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	<b>100</b>	<b>18.8</b>	2.9	18.8	2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	<b>4</b>	<b>1.13</b>	0.91	1.13	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	<b>10</b>	<b>4.83</b>	3.06	4.83	2008	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	<b>50</b>	<b>18</b>	7	18	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	<b>2</b>	<b>0.05</b>	ND	0.05	2008	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Fecal coliform/E. coli (positive samples)	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	NA		2008	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	NA		2008	No	Naturally present in the environment

Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	0	ND	0	2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	7.3	2.9	7.3	2006	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	9.27	3.21	9.27	2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0	ND	0	2008	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	0.8	ND	0.8	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

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	0.3	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.41	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

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 (µg/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
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
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.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances 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

#### **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. City of Hobbs 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>.

#### **Additional Information for Arsenic**

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

#### **For more information please contact:**

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