



2009 Consumer Confidence Report

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State of New Mexico drinking water health standards. The City of Hobbs vigilantly safeguards your water supply and regularly tests your water quality. We are proud to report that your system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

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. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The Safe Drinking Water Hotline provides the general public, regulators, medical and water professionals, academia, and media, with information about drinking water and ground water programs authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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 materials, 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, agriculture 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 station, 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, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Hobbs worked with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to complete 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 Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau, 425 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Where does the City of Hobbs' water come from?

The City of Hobbs' only water source is the Ogallala Aquifer. This underground aquifer is located approximately 80 feet beneath our community. To draw water from the Ogallala Aquifer, the City of Hobbs operates 33 water wells. The only treatment this high quality drinking water requires before delivery to your tap is chlorination. While this water source is readily available, it is limited in supply and it is important that we take effective water conservation steps.

Treated Effluent Reuse Project

To conserve, sustain and extend the City of Hobbs' current drinking water supply, the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant has recently been significantly upgraded to produce a high quality water that meets both the USEPA's and NMED's criteria for irrigation of public recreational sites. The reuse of treated effluent water for irrigating large public spaces would reduce the amount of water the City of Hobbs' withdraws from the Ogallala Aquifer at a 1:1 ratio.

A fully implemented beneficial reuse program would result in an annual drinking water savings of up to 2,700 acre-feet* per year (879,795,000 gallons), or 30% of the City's total annual water production. In addition to providing irrigation of public recreational sites, treated effluent water may also be utilized to help combat wildfires, used on highway and other construction projects, and used in a variety of industrial and commercial applications.

(* acre-foot = 325,850 gallons)

To learn more about the steps being taken by the City of Hobbs toward beneficially reusing treated effluent water, the public is encouraged to attend an informative public meeting on this issue. This meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall Annex, 200 E. Broadway, Hobbs, NM.



Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2009 calendar year. 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 State requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfections & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.7	NA	3.7	2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.13	ND	0.13	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	7.8	6.5	7.8	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from grass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.07	0.06	0.07	2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.25	ND	0.25	2008	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	18.8	2.9	18.8	2008	No	Discharge from steel pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.13	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	10	6.40	3.1	6.4	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from Septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	18	7	18	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	0.05	ND	0.05	2008	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Microbiological Contaminants								
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA		2009	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	1	0	NA		2009	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	7.3	2.9	7.3	2006	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Uranium (µg/L)	0	30	9.27	3.21	9.27	2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0.006	ND	0.006	2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	1.3	ND	1.3	2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.3	0	2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead -action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.41	0	2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Sample Date	Typical Sources
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	No	2009	By-product of drinking chlorination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	ND	No	2006	Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
µg/L	µg/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 disinfection 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 material and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Hobbs is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The 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.

Additional Information for Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

How can I get involved?

The City of Hobbs Utilities Board meets on the first Thursday of each quarter (January, April, July, October) at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. The Commission Chambers are located in the City Hall Annex, 200 E. Broadway, Hobbs, NM.

Spanish (Español) - Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

**For more information please contact:**

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