



2010 Consumer Confidence Report

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, 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.

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 my 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 we take effective water conservation steps.

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.

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.

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.

(* one acre-foot = 325,850 gallon)



Water Quality Data Table

<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>
Disinfectants & 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	3.3	NA		2010	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 glass 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 and 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	5.8	3.3	5.8	2010	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
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 (ug/L)	0	30	9.27	3.21	9.27	2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0.7	ND	0.7	2010	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u># Samples</u> <u>Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds</u> <u>AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
Inorganic Contaminants								
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)
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.

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 agricultural 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.

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER INSIDE YOUR HOME

Water is a valuable and limited natural resource. These simple and easy tips will not only conserve water, but save you money too! Turn off the lights and electronic devices (stereos, radios, televisions, etc.) when you are not in the room and cut the air conditioner (or furnace) back when you are not at home. Energy (electric power) requires large volumes of water to produce. Reducing energy demands reduces the amount of water needed for energy production.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Refrigerate a bottle or glass of water to drink instead of letting a faucet flow until the water runs cold.
- Prepare food efficiently. Speed-up cleaning of food by using a vegetable brush. Spray water in short bursts. Install faucet aerators to cut back water consumption.
- Defrost food sensibly. Plan ahead and defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator. Don't use running water to defrost food. Use the microwave or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water.
- Reduce dishwashing. Use a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean to limit pre-rinse time. Let really dirty pans or dishes soak to speed washing. Most dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing. Limit dishwasher use to full loads only.
- Reuse clean household water. Collect all the water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet or showerhead. Use this to water your house plants or outdoor planters. Do the same with water that is used to boil eggs or steam vegetables.
- Garbage disposal alternatives. Avoid using your garbage disposal. Compost leftover fruits and vegetables with yard waste.

IN THE BATHROOM

- Do not use the toilet as a trash can. For every toilet flush you eliminate, you can save between two and seven gallons of water. That means a lot of water saved and a lot less of a charge on your water bill.
- Use a glass for rinse water when brushing your teeth instead of letting the faucet run. Shave the same way. An electric razor also saves water.
- Fix leaking pipes, faucets, and toilets immediately. Research has shown that an average of 8% of all home water use is wasted through leaks. Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait a few minutes and then look in the bowl. If the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak.
- Install low-flow toilet. Low-flow toilets need only 1/6 of a gallon per flush, saving you money and thousands of gallons of water each year. Unlike earlier models, low flow toilets available today receive high marks from consumers for overall performance.
- Conserve water in the bathtub. Take a shower instead of a bath and save up to 30 gallons of water. Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water. If you want a bath, try filling the tub just half way.
- Shorten your showers by one minute. Cut back on your shower time and you will rack up big savings in water and energy. If you really want to try and save water and money, limit your shower time to five minutes or less. Also, install a water-saving showerhead that uses only 2.5 gallons per minute and save even more.

IN THE LAUNDRY

- Wash only full loads of laundry. You'll not only save water, but energy and money as well!
- Consider purchasing a new water and energy efficient clothes washer and dryer. Look for Energy Star labeled products and you could save more water in one year than a person drinks in a lifetime. These units also create less wear and tear on clothes, clean better, and use less detergent. Some electric utilities offer rebates for qualified models. See www.energystar.gov for more information.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact any of the following people:

Tim Woomer, Utilities Director
Brandi Garcia, Bacteriologist
Lonnie Creed, Utilities Superintendent
Frank Crane, Water Production Supervisor

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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.