



# 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Albuquerque Bernalillo County  
Water Utility Authority

# Drinking Water News

We know that the quality of your drinking water is important to you. Water Authority employees take drinking water quality and standards very seriously. Every year, thousands of water samples are collected to test the quality of water delivered to your home.

Our water meets or exceeds all federal and state standards for drinking water quality.

Inside this report, you'll find information about:

- Your drinking water from the source to the tap
- Results of USEPA required sampling
- Sources of lead in drinking water

*How to get a copy of this report in Spanish:  
 Noticia en Español: Este reporte contiene información muy importante acerca de la calidad del agua. Para recibir una copia en español, llamen al 505-842-9287 o visita la pagina:  
[www.abcwua.org/Download\\_Report](http://www.abcwua.org/Download_Report)*

## The Water 2120 Plan ...



The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority administers the water and wastewater utility for all of Albuquerque and the metro area of Bernalillo County. The New Mexico State Legislature created the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority in June of 2003.

• Chair	Klarissa Peña	City of Albuquerque	Councilor, District 3	<b>ABCWUA</b> P.O. Box 568 Albuquerque, NM 87103 <a href="http://www.abcwua.org">www.abcwua.org</a>
• Vice-Chair	Debbie O'Malley	County of Bernalillo	Commissioner, District 1	
• Members	Richard J. Berry Pat Davis Trudy Jones Maggie Hart Stebbins Wayne Johnson	City of Albuquerque City of Albuquerque City of Albuquerque County of Bernalillo County of Bernalillo	Mayor Councilor, District 6 Councilor, District 8 Commissioner, District 3 Commissioner, District 5	Creative input by Lori Pettit.
• Ex-Officio Member	Pablo R. Rael	Village of Los Ranchos	Board Trustee	Design and graphics by Jan Underwood, Information Illustrated.
• Executive Director	Mark S. Sanchez			

Monthly board meetings are held at the Vincent E. Griego Joint Chambers of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Center. Meeting schedules and agendas are available at <http://www.abcwua.org>.

# WATER 2120: Securing Our Water Future

The Water Authority's new water resources management plan is here! The plan will help meet the water needs of our community for the next 100 years.

In September of 2016, the Water Authority Board voted to approve the plan. State and federal agency support included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Interstate Stream Commission, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Nature Conservancy. Core policies of the plan focus on making the best use of our existing water supplies rather than seeking new sources.

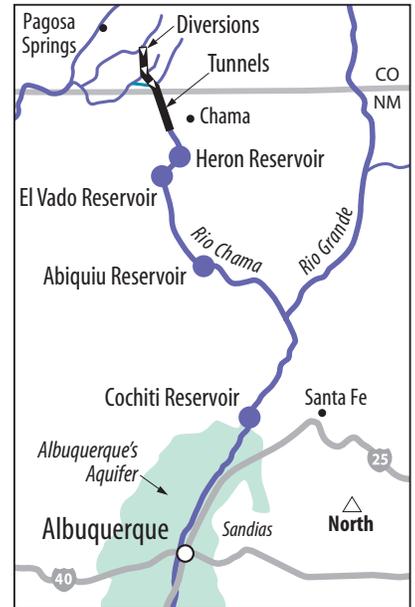
## Plan Overview

- The plan builds on our community's past success in reducing our use. Adding surface water to the drinking water supply has reduced our impact on ground water levels within the Albuquerque basin.
- By making investments now in conservation, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), storm-water capture, wastewater reuse, and other alternatives, our community can stretch existing supplies for several decades. These strategies will help secure a future water supply through all climate and growth scenarios.
- Most importantly, the plan provides for a reliable future water supply without rate increases.

## Key Elements

- **Conservation:** For the past 20 years, our water use has declined steadily while our population has continued to grow.
- **A diverse supply portfolio:** The Water Authority has six sources of supply: surface water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), non-potable surface water and two reuse projects for turf irrigation. The plan calls for continued use of these existing alternatives and adds storm-water capture to the portfolio.
- **New storage capacity:** Expanding our use of reuse water and storm-water capture will require new storage capacity (e.g., reservoirs and underground storage).
- **Groundwater management and preservation:** Groundwater levels in the aquifer are rising for the first time in decades due to conservation and our use of surface water. **WATER 2120** establishes a management level and policies for maintaining the aquifer as a long-term community resource.
- **Environmental and cultural responsibility:** Our new plan means there will be no need to acquire more pre-1907 water rights. This leaves more water available for agriculture. It also emphasizes the management and preservation of the environmentally sensitive watersheds where our surface-water supply originates.

Further Water 2120 Plan details are available at [www.abcwua.org/Latest\\_News](http://www.abcwua.org/Latest_News).



The sources of Albuquerque's water are the underground aquifer and surface water from the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project. That is, water from the Colorado River Basin via a series of diversions, tunnels, reservoirs, and rivers.

## Water Quality Protection

The Water Protection Advisory Board also serves to advise the Water Authority on all matters related to the quality and protection of our drinking water. The member governments appoint Board Members to represent the City of Albuquerque, the County of Bernalillo and the Water Authority.

The mission of the Board is to:

- Study issues that impact drinking water quality
- Implement the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan
- Promote decisions that support the protection of water quality
- Be advocates for the resources of our community

Priorities for the Board include:

- Cleanup of groundwater contamination sites
- Preventing surface water contamination
- Historic landfills in Albuquerque
- Active USEPA Superfund sites

Board meetings are held the second Friday of each month. Meeting agendas and annual reports of the Board's activities are available on our website.

[http://www.abcwua.org/Water\\_Protection\\_Advisory\\_Board](http://www.abcwua.org/Water_Protection_Advisory_Board)

Current members of the Board are:

Jennifer Thatcher, Chair  
Steve Glass, Vice-Chair  
Suzanne Busch  
John S. Derr  
Kerry J. Howe  
Russell D. Pederson  
Roland Penttila  
Caroline Scruggs



# Key Terms for Reading This Report

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. We monitor untreated water for the presence of *Cryptosporidium*. If ingested, these parasites may produce symptoms of nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Note: *Cryptosporidium* is reported in oocysts, which are spores of the organism.

Based on the levels of *Cryptosporidium* found in source water, the USEPA requires water systems to use specific treatment techniques and to demonstrate their efficiency. The surface water treatment plant was designed to provide a multi-barrier approach (pre-sedimentation, clarification and filtration) to removing *Cryptosporidium* in order to meet the USEPA requirements.

**Detected:** The concentration of a substance measured at or above the USEPA specified Method Detection Limit.

**Entry Point to the Distribution System (EPTDS):** a point where blended (well and treated surface) water from a storage tank enters the distribution system to deliver water to individual neighborhoods and customer taps.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**ND (<1 PPB):** Not Detected at the Method Detection Limit specified in parentheses.

**Parts Per Billion (PPB):** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). 1 PPB = 0.001 PPM. Example: 1 drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

**Parts Per Million (PPM):** Parts per million or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ). 1 PPM = 1,000 PPB. Example: 4 drops of water in a 55-gallon barrel.

**picoCuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are provided in English and Spanish at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org)*

## WHAT THE USEPA SAYS ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

*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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) 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 human activity.*



*Contaminants in drinking water sources may include:*

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater discharges, 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*

*At left - Lab Analyst Leah Gainer filters a water sample at the Water Quality Lab.*

# Regulated Contaminants

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances in drinking water. Those substances are called regulated contaminants. The tables on the following three pages show only the regulated contaminants found in the most recent compliance monitoring.

## Special Notes from the USEPA

### FOR IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS:

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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

### HEALTH EFFECTS:

For water containing greater than 5 PPB of arsenic and up to and including 10 PPB of **arsenic**: While your drinking water meets USEPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic

from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a metal known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Some people who drink water containing **barium** in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Some people who drink water containing **bromate** in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing **chromium** in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

Some people who drink water containing **xylenes** in excess of the MCL over many years could experience damage to their nervous system.

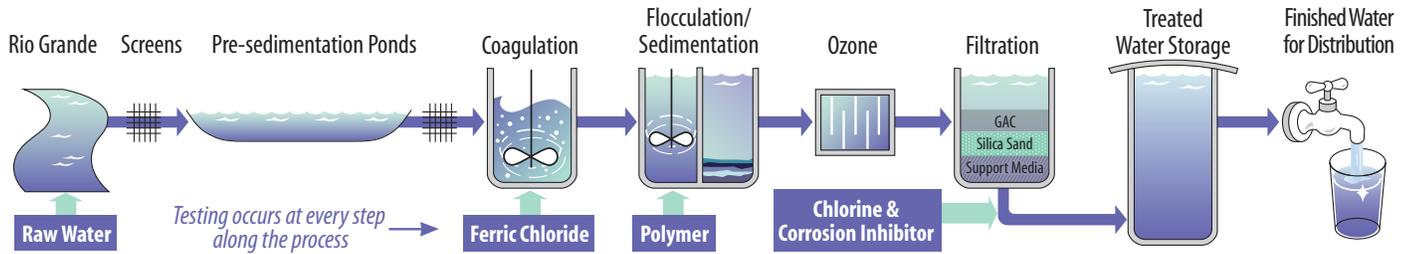
Sodium levels for all distribution zones range from 24 to 91 PPM. The system-wide average is 36 PPM. For more information on variation of sodium and other substances, visit [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

## 2016 Results of Compliance Monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System

USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected. The table below shows the substances found in the most recent water quality testing done at the Entry Points to the Distribution System (EPTDS) to comply with USEPA. (Detection limit in Parentheses.)

Substance	Sample Collection Years	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Source	Health Effects Language
<b>Metals</b>								
Arsenic	2014-2016	Zero PPB	3 PPB	8 PPB	10 PPB (1 PPB)	Zero PPB (1 PPB)	Erosion of natural volcanic deposits.	See note above.
Barium	2014-2016	Zero PPM	Zero PPM	0.2 PPM	2 PPM (0.1 PPM)	2 PPM (0.1 PPM)	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Chromium	2014-2016	Zero PPB	1 PPB	8 PPB	100 PPB (1.0 PPB)	100 PPB (1.0 PPB)	Erosion of natural deposits.	
<b>Minerals</b>								
Fluoride	2014-2016	0.3 PPM	0.5 PPM	1.2 PPM	4 PPM (0.10 PPM)	4 PPM (0.10 PPM)	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Nutrients</b>								
Nitrate	2016	Zero PPM	0.3 PPM	3.0 PPM	10 PPM (0.10 PPM)	10 PPM (0.10 PPM)	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Organics</b>								
Total Xylenes	2014-2016	Zero PPM	0.005 PPM	0.014 PPM	10 PPM (0.00009 PPM)	Zero PPM (0.00009 PPM)	Discharge from petroleum or chemical factories.	See note above.
<b>Radionuclides</b>								
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	2014-2016	Zero pCi/L	0.6 pCi/L	2.6 pCi/L	15 pCi/L (0.8 pCi/L)	Zero pCi/L (0.8 pCi/L)	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
Uranium	2014-2016	1 PPB	3 PPB	6 PPB	30 PPB (1.0 PPB)	Zero PPB (1.0 PPB)	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Disinfectants</b>								
Chlorine	2016	Zero PPM	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	TT = Maintain required chlorine level or restore within 4 hours.	Not Applicable	Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite).	Not Applicable
				TT met at 100% of sites.				

# How Surface Water is Treated and Tested



## Treatment

Safe Drinking Water Act standards are designed to provide maximum protection for the public's health. Surface water is treated according to these health based standards at the San Juan-Chama Surface Water treatment plant. Here's how:

- Water withdrawn from the Rio Grande is treated with a coagulant, ferric chloride, to remove particles. Polymer helps by making small particles clump together.
- Ozone gas kills bacteria and viruses. Ozone also breaks down naturally occurring organic material.
- A multistage filtration system is used to remove any remaining microscopic particles from the water. Granular activated carbon (GAC) removes taste and odor compounds found in surface water.
- Chlorine is added to disinfect the water and protects the quality. Corrosion inhibitor protects pipes and home plumbing.

The entire treatment process is designed to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards for water quality.

## Testing

The Water Authority tests your water for more contaminants than are required by law. We also test many regulated and unregulated contaminants more frequently than required. To ensure water quality and safety, we:

- Collected about 5,500 water samples in 2016 and conducted nearly 45,000 analyses of those samples.
- Continually monitor water quality in "real time" 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Conduct tests for 91 regulated contaminants as well as more than 50 unregulated contaminants.
- Conduct daily process sampling and monitoring of the surface water treatment plant to ensure treatment goals are met.

While not required, this sampling is important for identifying potential areas of improvement. This testing ensures that water quality is maintained all the way to the customers' tap.

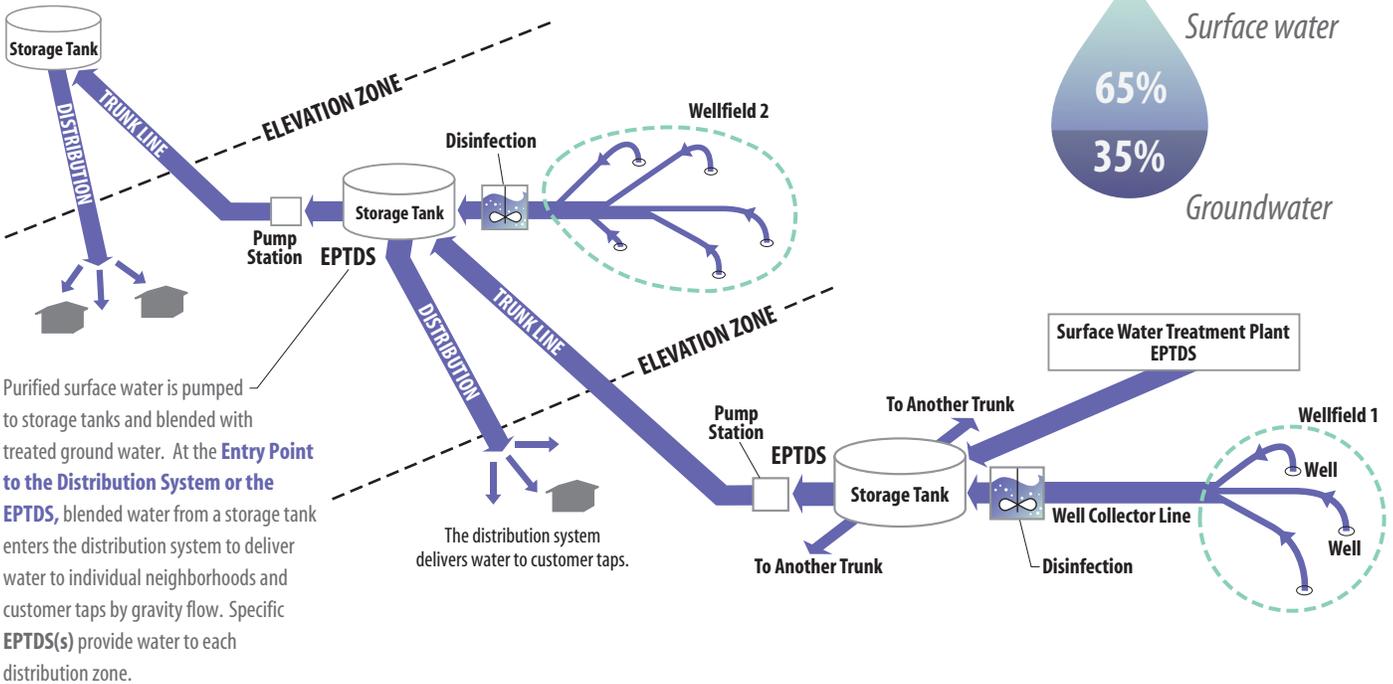
USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected and how they must be analyzed. The table below shows only the substances found in compliance monitoring for the finished water at the Surface Water Treatment Plant. For surface water, USEPA also requires that specific treatment techniques are used and shown to be effective. **(Detection limit in parentheses.)**

## 2016 Results of Compliance Monitoring at the Surface Water Treatment Plant

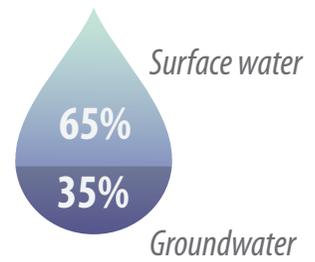
Substance	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Source
<b>Microbiological</b>						
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (untreated water)	TT	Zero Oocysts/L	Zero Oocysts/L	0.09 Oocysts/L	1.0 Oocyst/L	Human and animal fecal waste.
Turbidity <i>A measure of cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of filtration.</i>	1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) 95% of the finished water samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	Zero NTU	0.01 NTU	Not Applicable	0.10 NTU	Soil runoff.
			100% of samples taken in each month were less than 0.3 NTU.			
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT (1.0 PPM)	Not Applicable	ND (<1.0 PPM)	0.9 PPM	1.6 PPM	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Minerals</b>						
Fluoride	4 PPM (0.10 PPM)	4 PPM	0.35 PPM	0.35 PPM	0.35 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nutrients</b>						
Nitrate	10 PPM (0.10 PPM)	10 PPM	0.15 PPM	0.15 PPM	0.15 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>						
Bromate (for health effects – page 4, top right)	10 PPB (1 PPB)	Zero PPB	1.1 PPB	2.6 PPB	4.3 PPB	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Substance</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)</b>	<b>Minimum Detected</b>	<b>Average Detected</b>	<b>Maximum Detected</b>	<b>Source</b>
Chlorine	4 PPM	4 PPM	0.7 PPM	1.3 PPM	2.0 PPM	Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite).

# Regulated Contaminants at Your Tap

Ground water is moved from the wells to storage tanks in large-diameter pipelines. The water is treated including disinfection with sodium hypochlorite, which is generated on-site from table salt and water. (The product is like weak chlorine bleach.)



## 2016 Water Production



## 2016 Compliance Results of Distribution System Monitoring

USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected. The table below shows the substances found in the most recent water quality testing done in the Distribution System to comply with USEPA. (**Detection limit in parentheses.**)

Substance Detected	Safe Level	DETAILED INFORMATION						
		Source	Year of Samples	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level (or equivalent)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (or equivalent)
<b>Microbiological</b>								
<b>Total Coliform</b> (240 samples each month)	Yes	Coliforms are bacteria that are normally present in the environment.	2016	–	–	Total coliform bacteria were detected in 0% of the samples collected.	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5.0% or more of samples in any month.	0% of samples with detectable coliform bacteria.
<b>Disinfectants</b>								
<b>Chlorine</b>	Yes	Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite).	2016	0.2 PPM	0.8 PPM	1.5 PPM	4 PPM (MRDL)	4 PPM (MRDLG)
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)<sup>1</sup></b>	Yes	By-product of chlorination.	2016	1-59 PPB <sup>3</sup>		41 PPB (highest LRAA <sup>4</sup> at site 1).	80 PPB ( <b>0.15 PPB</b> )	Not Applicable
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)<sup>2</sup></b>	Yes	By-product of chlorination.	2016	0-19 PPB <sup>3</sup>		14 PPB (highest LRAA <sup>4</sup> at site 1).	60 PPB ( <b>0.06 PPB</b> )	Not Applicable
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>								
<b>Zones 1-20</b> (50 samples every three years)	Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing.	2015	0.29 PPM	Zero	0.47 PPM	1.3 PPM ( <b>0.10 PPM</b> )	Zero PPM
	Lead		2015	2 PPB	Zero	4 PPB	15 PPB ( <b>1.0 PPB</b> )	Zero PPB

<sup>1</sup> TTHMs are the sum of the concentrations of the trihalomethane compounds. <sup>2</sup> HAA5s are the sum of the concentrations of the haloacetic acid compounds. <sup>3</sup> The range represents the minimum and maximum of all quarterly analytical results at all 12 locations. <sup>4</sup> The Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) is the average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. <sup>5</sup> Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The Action Level is compared to the concentration detected in the 90th percentile sample.

# The Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)

## What is the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule?

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require that once every five years, the USEPA issues a list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water. These data serve as a primary source of occurrence and exposure information that the agency uses to develop regulatory decisions.

## What does this information mean to me?

Contaminant monitoring is part of a larger process that USEPA, states, tribes, water systems, and other partners use to protect drinking water. Health information is necessary to know whether these contaminants pose a health risk, but it is often incomplete for unregulated contaminants. Some contaminants may be harmful at low levels; others may be harmful only at much higher levels. UCMR examines what is in the drinking water, but additional health information is needed to know whether these contaminants pose a health risk. We are required to collect samples from the finished drinking water and report the substances detected along with the average and range of results.

## Unregulated substances detected during UCMR3: Laboratory Minimum Reporting Level (MRL\*)

Substance Name	MRL	Range of Results	Average of Results
1,4-dioxane	0.07 PPB	<0.07 to 0.19 PPB	<0.07 PPB
Chlorate	20 PPB	<20 to 169 PPB	88 PPB
Chromium, total	0.2 PPB	<0.2 to 9 PPB	0.96 PPB
Chromium-6	0.03 PPB	<0.03 to 7.3 PPB	0.97 PPB
Molybdenum	1 PPB	<1.1 to 7.5 PPB	3.1 PPB
Strontium	0.3 PPB	144 to 631 PPB	379 PPB
Vanadium	0.2 PPB	<0.2 to 14 PPB	3.4 PPB

\* MRL is the lowest concentration that can be detected by laboratory equipment.

More information about the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program is available at [www.epa.gov/dwucmr](http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr).

*To find out more about the water quality at your house,  
use the new interactive distribution map at [www.abcwua.org/waterquality](http://www.abcwua.org/waterquality).  
Or, call the Water Quality Information Line at 289-3653.*

## Help Keep the Rio Grande Clean - Please Clean Up After Your Pet

Pet waste contains bacteria, viruses and parasites that persist for many months. In the summer, water from thunderstorms washes pet waste from trails and open space into arroyos and storm drains. All of our storm drains empty directly into the Rio Grande without treatment, so the waste ends up in the river. Keeping pet waste out of the river is one thing we can do to protect the quality for downstream users.



The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County encourage everyone to clean up after their pets with the slogan **"There is no Poop Fairy / Scoop Your Poop / Grab it, Bag it, Toss it!"**

Go to [www.bernco.gov/poopfairy](http://www.bernco.gov/poopfairy) to learn more, and to get your free yard signs.

Poop Fairy Image courtesy of the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District, SC | [poopfairy.info](http://poopfairy.info)

## Information Websites

- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority . . . . . [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org)
- City of Albuquerque . . . . . [www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov)
- Bernalillo County . . . . . [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)
- Bernalillo County Water Conservation . . . . . [www.bernco.gov/water](http://www.bernco.gov/water)
- NM Environment Department  
Drinking Water Bureau . . . . . [www.env.nm.gov/dwb](http://www.env.nm.gov/dwb)
- American Water Works Association . . . . . [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)
- USEPA . . . . . [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## How to Contact Us

- Emergency repair hotline . . . . . 842-WATR(9287)
- General and billing information . . . . . 842-WATR(9287)
- Water quality information . . . . . 289-3653
- Report water waste . . . . . 842-WATR(9287)
- Report unusual activity at water facilities . . . . . 842-WATR(9287)
- Pollution prevention/industrial pretreatment . . . . . 289-3419
- Water protection policy & action plan . . . . . 289-3025
- Cross-connections . . . . . 289-3417
- Water quality email . . . . . [waterquality@abcwua.org](mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org)



# Source Water Monitoring and Assessment

**If any regulated contaminant is detected, the Water Authority will restrict use of the source and investigate treatment options.**

## Ground Water Monitoring

Ground water measurements are conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) every winter. Well water quality is monitored annually in each production well. While water quality in a single well varies little from year to year, water quality in wells in different parts of the aquifer can vary significantly. Wells near known or suspected soil or ground water contamination sites are monitored more frequently. The Water Authority continues to sample nearby wellfields monthly to ensure that the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility Spill contamination has not reached our water supply.

Information on the fuel spill can be found at [www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com](http://www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com).

## Surface Water Monitoring

The San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project is designed to produce drinking water that meets or exceeds all USEPA standards for regulated substances, no matter the quality of source water.

The chemical and biological characteristics of the San Juan-Chama surface water are monitored quarterly. Samples are collected by both the USGS and the Water Authority. Monitored substances include general chemistry, metals, organics, and radionuclides.



## New Mexico Environment Department Source Water Assessments

In 2002, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a Source Water Assessment to determine how susceptible each Water Authority well is to contamination, based on aspects such as construction methods, geology, and proximity to contamination sites. The conclusions were that the wells were generally protected from potential sources of contamination.

Wells near known contamination sites are ranked highly susceptible to contamination. Potential sources of contamination include businesses that use hazardous chemicals such as automotive repair shops, gas stations, dry cleaners, paint and hardware stores, car washes, construction sites, golf courses, interstate highways and city streets, military facilities, sewer lines and septic tanks, and unlined arroyos, ditches, and drainage canals.

To request a copy of the Source Water Assessment for the Albuquerque Water System (System Number 10701), or for the North West Service Area (formerly New Mexico Utilities, Inc., System Number 10901), contact NMED Drinking Water District I Office in Albuquerque at 505-222-9500. Please include your name, address, and telephone number and the name and number of your water system.

## Water Protection and Education

Achieving our goal of securing a water supply for future generations is possible, but only if we educate our citizens – particularly our children – about responsible stewardship of our water resources.

Our award-winning education program consists of four key components:

- In-class, hands-on presentations for grades 1-12.
- “A Day Without Water” puppet show for grades K-2.
- A full-day field trip to the Rio Grande (RIO-the River is Ours) for all APS fourth graders.
- Free tours of our wastewater treatment plant for grades 4-college.

Our website has free educational materials, classroom curriculum, and other resources available for teachers. In the past five years, we have educated approximately 100,000 students.

National environmental associations have recognized our education program: the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). In 2016, we won a WEF Public Communication and Outreach Award. In 2017, we won a NACWA Public Information and Education Award.



# In the News ...

## Lead in Drinking Water

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. The Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home plumbing components.

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>.

If you live in an older home, you may wish to discuss your individual situation with a physician and consider having you or your children's blood lead levels tested. When water has been sitting in your pipes unused for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking.

In March of 2016, the Water Authority began offering free lead and copper testing to customers. 177 samples were tested.

### 2016 Customer Requested Testing

Parameter	Minimum	Maximum	90th Percentile
Lead PPB	0	13	2
Copper PPM	0.01	0.39	0.24

### 2015 USEPA Required Testing

Parameter	Minimum	Maximum	90th Percentile	Action Level
Lead PPB	0	4	2	15
Copper PPM	0.03	0.47	0.29	1.3

The highest concentration of lead was measured in sample from a home built prior to 1940.

The Water Authority will test your water for lead at no expense. Please visit our website to complete a Sample Collection Request form ([www.abcwua.org/leadsurvey](http://www.abcwua.org/leadsurvey)). Or you can call 289-3653 to schedule a sample collection.

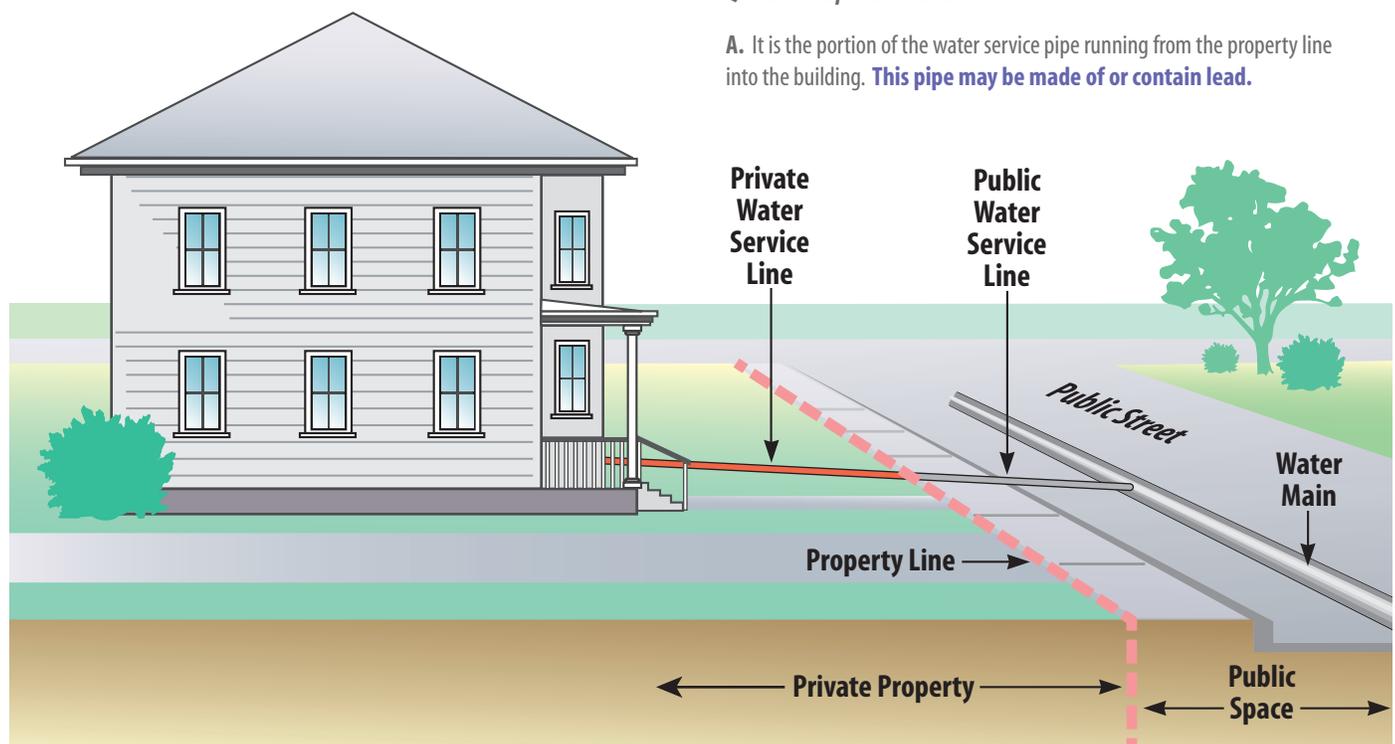


Image after Boston, MA, Water and Sewer Commission Lead Replacement Incentive Program Brochure

**Q. What is a private water service?**

**A.** It is the portion of the water service pipe running from the property line into the building. **This pipe may be made of or contain lead.**

# Water Conservation

## Voluntary Water by the Numbers Program

**In Albuquerque, we use about 40 percent of our drinking water on our yards every year.**

The Water Authority has developed a flexible, voluntary program that seeks to limit needless landscape irrigation.

The Water by the Numbers program puts YOU in control. You pick your own days to water, and irrigate your landscape:



- **once a week** in March
- **twice a week** in April and May
- **three times a week** in June, July and August
- **twice a week** in September and October
- **once a week** in November

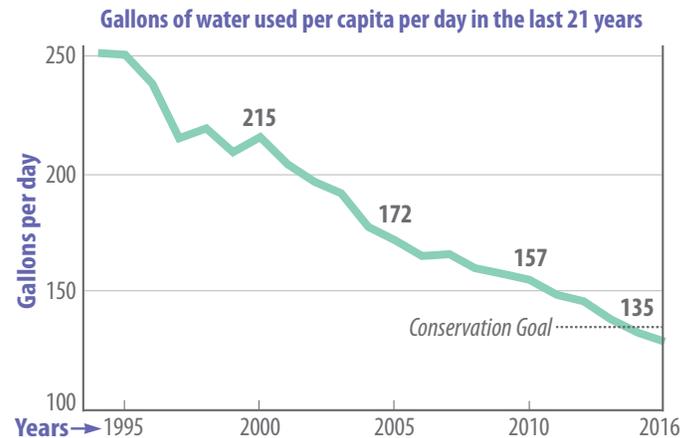
It's as easy as 1-2-3-2-1!

Visit [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org) for an irrigation calculator and information on proper watering techniques.

### How does your water use compare to others?

You can use your water bill to see how your home use compares to other Albuquerque residents. Your water bill is measured in units. One unit equals 748 gallons. To calculate your home water use, multiply the number of units of water you used in a month by 748. Then divide by the number of people in your

household and then divide by the numbers of days in the month. The number you calculate is the amount of water being used by each member of your household at home each day. If that number is above 70, there are things you can do to reduce your water use and save money on your water bill. Visit our web site at [www.abcwua.org/conservation](http://www.abcwua.org/conservation), or call Water Conservation (505) 289-3042.



Gallons per capita per day (GPCD) is calculated by dividing the entire annual production of the Water Authority by the total population served and then dividing that number by 365. The amount of water used by individuals for home use is about half of the GPCD.

## WaterSmart Workshops!

**Optimize your garden output and minimize your water use with the Water Authority's free new WaterSmart Workshops!** Working with our Xeriscape Landscape Specialist and experts from Albuquerque Desert Oasis Teaching Garden ([www.dotgarden.org](http://www.dotgarden.org)) you'll learn to make the most of your xeriscape and urban garden by employing xeriscape techniques, and incorporating organic practices and water-saving strategies. Customers may receive a \$20 credit on their bill for every different WaterSmart workshop topic offered by the Water Authority within a five-year period. This year you'll have the opportunity to participate, learn and earn in up to seven different topics!

Topics include:

- Urban Gardening
- Installing Your Xeriscape
- Drip Irrigation Systems
- Landscape Maintenance
- Family Gardening
- Introduction to Tree Structure
- Winterizing your garden and irrigation system

Workshops are held from 9-11 a.m. at Desert Oasis Teaching Gardens at the Albuquerque Academy, 6400 Wyoming Blvd NE. Slots are limited (50 seats per class), and **all participants must pre-register**. Register online at <http://www.abcwua.org/watersmart.aspx>.

If you need help with registering please call 842-WATR (9287) Option #4.





VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ABCWUA.ORG](http://WWW.ABCWUA.ORG),  
AND USE THE NEW INTERACTIVE DISTRIBUTION ZONE MAP  
TO SEARCH FOR YOUR ADDRESS AND BROWSE WATER QUALITY DATA.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER QUALITY IN YOUR DISTRIBUTION ZONE?  
CALL THE WATER QUALITY INFORMATION LINE AT 289-3653.

