2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

- Where your water comes from
- How your water is made safe to drink, and how it's protected from contaminants including the novel coronavirus
- Results of EPA-required sampling and testing
- Understanding water quality regulations
- Where to find more information

Outperforming ALL Federal Standards for Safe Drinking Water

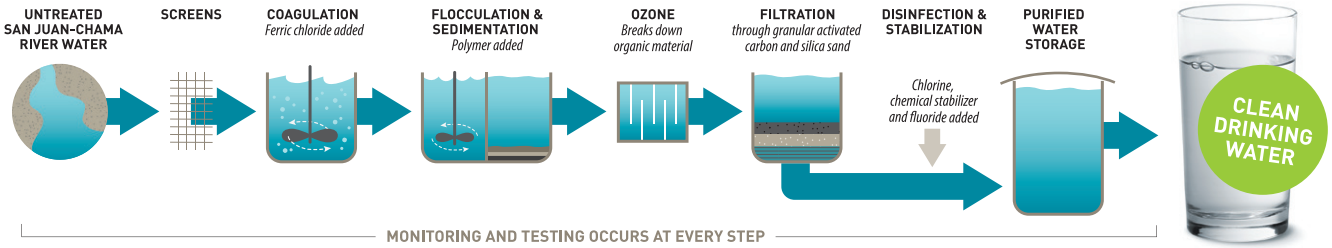
PREPARED FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE

Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority

YOUR DRINKING WATER

HOW IT'S MADE SAFE TO DRINK

Groundwater requires little treatment other than disinfection via chlorination, and in some cases undergoes additional filtering for arsenic removal. Surface water, however, requires extensive purification before distribution, using a series of mechanical and chemical processes, as shown below. Treatment, including chemical stabilization for corrosion prevention, occurs at the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project surface-water treatment plant. ***Treatment processes destroy bacteria and viruses.***



WHERE IT COMES FROM

Water Authority customers rely on locally pumped groundwater plus surface water imported from the Colorado River basin via the San Juan-Chama Project. The utility works with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and other agencies to conduct periodic source water assessments to determine the susceptibility of local drinking water to contamination. The latest assessment, called the Rivers and Aquifers Protection Plan (RAPP) is available online at www.abcwua.org/your-drinking-water/

HOW IT'S MONITORED & TESTED

Making sure that treatment processes are working correctly requires careful monitoring by a full-time staff of trained water quality engineers, scientists, and technicians. In 2020 the Water Authority collected and tested more than 5,500 water samples from wells, storage tanks, customer taps, and the surface-water treatment plant. Some of the testing is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and some of it is voluntary, but it's all done to ensure that Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have a municipal water supply that's second to none in terms of quality.

SEE THE 2020 TEST RESULTS

2020 COMPLIANCE MONITORING RESULTS (Albuquerque Water System, NM35-10701; see page 3 for definitions)

SAFE TO DRINK PER EPA

SUBSTANCE OR CONDITION	Source	Sample Year(s)	Detection Limit *Lowest amount that can be detected with available technology*	Minimum Detected	Average Detected System-wide	Average Detected at San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Plant	Maximum Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level *(MCL)*	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal *(MCLG)*	
As **Arsenic** *See Common Concerns on page 4*	Erosion of natural volcanic deposits	2020	1 PPB	Zero PPB	3 PPB	Zero PPB	8 PPB	10 PPB	Zero PPB	✔
Ba **Barium**	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	0.01 PPM	0.03 PPM	0.072 PPM	0.054 PPM	0.17 PPM	2 PPM	2 PPM	✔
Cr **Chromium**	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	1 PPB	Zero PPB	0.8 PPB	Zero PPB	7 PPB	100 PPB	100 PPB	✔
F^- **Fluoride***	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	0.10 PPM	0.39 PPM	0.66 PPM	0.77 PPM	1.2 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	✔
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	0.7 - 1.0 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	0.4 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	0.9 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	✔
NO_3^- **Nitrate**	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	2020	0.05 PPM	Zero PPM	0.49 PPM	0.15 PPM	2.8 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM	✔
Ra **Radium 226 + 228**	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	0.01 - 0.21 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	0.07 pCi/L	0.05 pCi/L	0.19 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	✔
C_8H_{10} **Total Xylenes**	Discharge from petroleum or chemical factories	2020	0.0005 PPM	Zero PPM	0.000062 PPM	Zero PPM	0.00065 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM	✔
U **Uranium**	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	1 PPB	Zero PPB	2.2 PPB	Zero PPB	5 PPB	30 PPB	Zero PPB	✔
BrO_3^- **Bromate**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	2020	1 PPB	Zero PPB	Not Applicable	1.6 PPB	5 PPB	10 PPB	Zero PPB	✔
Cl **Chlorine**	Disinfectant	2020	0.1 PPM (distribution system)	0.3 PPM	1.0 PPM	Not Applicable	1.7 PPM	4 PPM (MRDL)	4 PPM (MRDLG)	✔
			0.03 PPM (surface water)	0.6 PPM	Not Applicable	1.6 PPM	1.7 PPM	4 PPM (MRDL)	4 PPM (MRDLG)	
			0.03 PPM (groundwater)	TT met at 100% of sites (TT= Maintain required chlorine level or restore within 4 hours)				TT	TT	
Cryptosporidium	Human and animal fecal waste	2015-2017	1 Oocyst/L	Zero Oocysts/L	Not Applicable	0.004 Oocysts/L	0.093 Oocysts/L	TT	Zero Oocysts/L	✔
Turbidity *(cloudiness; indicates effectiveness of filtration and disinfection)*	Soil runoff	2020	0.002 NTU	0.01 NTU	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0.2 NTU	1 NTU in all finished water samples, 95% of the finished water samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	Zero NTU	✔
C **Total Organic Carbon**	Naturally present in the environment	2020	1 PPM	Zero PPM	Not Applicable	0.7 PPM	1.4 PPM	TT	Not Applicable	✔
Total Coliform	Coliforms are bacteria that are normally present in the environment	2020	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1 of 245 samples or 0.41% of samples taken in a month had detectable total coliform bacteria. No total coliform bacteria was detected in any repeat sample at any location.	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5.0% or more of samples in any month	0% of samples with detectable coliform bacteria	✔

SUBSTANCE	Source	Sample Year	Detection Limit	Range of Results**	Maximum LRAA	Maximum Contaminant Level *(MCL)* *Disinfection by-products are regulated based on the LRAA*	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal *(MCLG)*	
HAA5 **Haloacetic Acids** (HAA5)	By-product of chlorination	2020	0.48 - 0.50 PPB	Zero - 19 PPB	19 PPB	60 PPB	Not Applicable	✔
TTHM **Total Trihalomethanes** (TTHM)	By-product of chlorination	2020	0.5 PPB	3.4 - 62 PPB	48 PPB	80 PPB	Not Applicable	✔

SUBSTANCE	Source	Sample Year	Detection Limit	90th Percentile	Number of Samples that Exceed Action Level	Maximum Detected	Action Level *(Compared to the concentration detected in the 90th percentile sample.)*	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal *(MCLG)*	
Pb **Lead** *See Common Concerns on page 4*	Corrosion of household plumbing	2018	1 PPB	1 PPB	Zero	3 PPB	15 PPB	Zero PPB	✔
Cu **Copper**	Corrosion of household plumbing	2018	0.01 PPM	0.25 PPM	Zero	0.36 PPM	1.3 PPM	Zero PPM	✔

(See footnotes on page 4)

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

YOUR DRINKING WATER

To protect public health and safety, the EPA limits the amount of certain substances, known as contaminants, in drinking water. The table on the preceding page shows the latest test results for these regulated substances in drinking water distributed by the Water Authority to its customers in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

YOUR WATER AUTHORITY

The Water Authority has been nationally recognized not only for its highly successful conservation program, but for the quality and affordability of its drinking water and for its efforts to preserve and manage the community's water resources. It holds a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's.

RECENT AWARDS

Excellence in Management Platinum Award (2020)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Utility of the Future (2020)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (for watershed stewardship)

National Environmental Achievement Award, Watershed Collaboration (2020)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS: WHAT EPA SAYS

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants come in many forms, both natural and manmade, and can enter the sources of our drinking water in a number of ways, including dissolution of naturally occurring minerals. Contaminants in drinking water sources may include **microbial contaminants** (e.g., viruses and bacteria); **inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals; **pesticides and herbicides**; **organic chemical contaminants** from industrial processes, gas stations, septic systems, etc.; and **radioactive contaminants**, both naturally occurring and as a result of human activity.

In order to ensure drinking water safety, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protections for public health.

DEFINITIONS

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. We monitor the river for Cryptosporidium. The San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Plant was designed to provide a multi-barrier approach (pre-sedimentation, clarification, and filtration) to removing Cryptosporidium in order to meet the EPA requirements.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of cloudiness or haziness caused by suspended solids.

Parts Per Billion (PPB): Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L). 1 PPB = 0.001 PPM. Example: one drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

Parts Per Million (PPM): Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). 1 PPM = 1,000 PPB. Example: four 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.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Some substances found in drinking water are not regulated by the EPA, but testing for them in some cases is required for research purposes under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR).

2020 UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RESULTS

SUBSTANCE	Sample Year	Minimum Reporting Level	Range of Results	Average of Results
1-Butanol	2019	2 PPB	Zero - 2.5 PPB	Zero PPB
Germanium	2019	0.3 PPB	Zero - 0.38 PPB	Zero PPB
Manganese	2019-2020	0.4 PPB	Zero - 65 PPB	4.0 PPB
O-Toluidine	2019	0.007 PPB	Zero - 0.007 PPB	Zero PPB
Total HAA5	2018	0.2 PPB	1.6 - 17 PPB	7.8 PPB
Total HAA6Br	2018	0.2 PPB	2.4 - 17 PPB	9.1 PPB
Total HAA9	2018	0.2 PPB	3.1 - 27 PPB	14.8 PPB
Source Water Total Organic Carbon	2018	0.2 - 0.3 PPM	2.2 - 3.7 PPM	2.9 PPM
Source Water Bromide	2018	5 PPB	26 - 45 PPB	34.8 PPB

*The Water Authority continues working to meet a target fluoride range of 0.65 to 0.72 mg/L. More information at www.abcwua.org/your-drinking-water-fluoride-information/

** The range represents the minimum and maximum of all quarterly analytical results at all 12 monitoring locations.

COMMON CONCERNS

1 Should I be concerned about lead?

The Water Authority has removed all known lead components from its water distribution system. However, the utility offers free lead and copper testing for customers concerned about their home plumbing fixtures. Visit www.abcwua.org/your-drinking-water-lead-sample-collection-request/ or call 289-3653 to schedule a test.

RESULTS OF 2020 CUSTOMER-REQUESTED TESTING (33 SAMPLES)

SUBSTANCE	Minimum	Maximum	90th Percentile	Action Level
Pb Lead	Zero PPB	3 PPB	2 PPB	15 PPB

Here's what the EPA has to say about 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. Your local Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 federal Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

2 Is there arsenic in my drinking water?

All of Albuquerque's drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic. Allowable levels of arsenic are present in some locations, mainly due to erosion of natural deposits. EPA 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.

3 What if I am immuno-compromised?

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 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).

4 What about sodium?

Sodium levels in the Water Authority's service area range from 19 to 81 PPM (average: 33 PPM). For more information, visit www.abcwua.org and click on the Your Water tab.

5 Information about PFAS

Local drinking water remains protected from manmade chemicals known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The Water Authority's system has been tested as part of EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring requirements with no detections to date.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

CONTACT THE WATER AUTHORITY

Call **842-WATR (9287)** to

- Report a water or sewer emergency
- Pay a bill over the phone
- Make billing inquires
- Report water waste
- Report unusual activity at water facilities

Call **289-3653** (the Water Quality Information Line) with questions about your water quality, or email us at **waterquality@abcwua.org**.

En Español: Este reporte contiene informacion 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/your-drinking-water-download-report-english-spanish/**

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Water Authority website
www.abcwua.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater

New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau
www.env.nm.gov/dwb

Check us out on Facebook and Nextdoor!

INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

The municipal water supply is protected from the novel coronavirus, and other viruses and biological contaminants, via the Water Authority's existing treatment and disinfection procedures. More information is available from—

The Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

The New Mexico Department of Health
https://cv.nmhealth.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/coronavirus/what-should-i-do-if-im-concerned-about-my-drinking-water

GET INVOLVED!

Want to do more to help protect local drinking water supplies? You can start by staying informed! Links to up-to-date information about watershed and source-water protection can be found at **www.NMSourceWaterProtection.com**.

Other opportunities for involvement include attendance at one of our monthly board meetings, where issues concerning water quality are discussed. Meetings are open to the public and held virtually or in council chambers in the basement of the City/County Government Center at One Civic Plaza. Meeting schedules and agendas are available at **www.abcwua.org**. You'll also find meeting schedules for the community's Water Protection Advisory Board.

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority