



Albuquerque Bernalillo County  
Water Utility Authority

# 2021 Consumer Confidence Report

**May 2022**

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COMPLIANCE DIVISION MANAGER

# Why have a Water Quality Report?

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Required by Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

Public notice of what was detected during required monitoring of regulated contaminants

How our drinking water quality compares to the standards in the SDWA

Educate and inform customers about source water and water quality topics

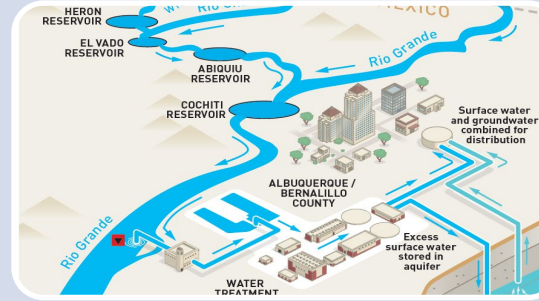
#### CONTACT THE WATER AUTHORITY

Call 842-WATR (9287) to

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

Questions about your water quality may also be emailed [waterquality@abcwua.org](mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org).

In Español: Este reporte contiene información muy importante.



#### 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 remove Cryptosporidium in order

**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.

## Water System Information

- Contact Information

## Sources of Water

- Ground Water
- Surface Water

## Definitions

# CCR Required Information

### 2021 COMPLIANCE MONI

SUBSTANCE OR CONDITION	Source
<b>As</b> Arsenic <i>See Common Concerns at far right.</i>	Erosion volcani
<b>Ba</b> Barium	Erosion

### 2020 UNREGULATED CONTAI

SUBSTANCE	Sample Year	Minimum Reporting Lev
1-Butanol	2019	2 PPB
Germanium	2019	0.3 PPB
Manganese	2019-2020	0.4 PPB
O-Toluidine	2019	0.007 PPB
Total HAA5	2018	0.2 PPB

### DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS: WHAT EPA SAYS



#### Detected Contaminants

- Entry Points
- Distribution
- Surface Water Plant

#### Compliance With Other Drinking Water Regulations

- Unregulated  
Contaminant  
Monitoring Rule -  
UCMR4

#### Educational Information

# CCR Required Information

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# Definitions

## 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.

# 2021 COMPLIANCE MONITORING RESULTS (Albuquerque Water System, NM35-10701)

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)	PERFORMANCE
<b>As</b> Arsenic <i>See Common Concerns at far right.</i>	Erosion of natural volcanic deposits	2021	1 PPB	Zero PPB	1.5 PPB	Zero PPB	3.0 PPB	10 PPB	Zero PPB	✓
<b>Ba</b> Barium	Erosion of natural deposits	2021	0.01 PPM	0.054 PPM	0.117 PPM	0.054 PPM	0.18 PPM	2 PPM	2 PPM	✓
<b>F<sup>-</sup></b> Fluoride <sup>2</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits	2021	0.10 PPM	0.34 PPM	0.4 PPM	0.44 PPM	0.44 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	✓
<b>AW</b> 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	✓
<b>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup></b> Nitrate	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	2021	0.05 PPM	Zero PPM	0.54 PPM	0.17 PPM	2.9 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM	✓
<b>Ra</b> 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	✓
<b>U</b> Uranium	Erosion of natural deposits	2020	1 PPB	Zero PPB	2.2 PPB	Zero PPB	5 PPB	30 PPB	Zero PPB	✓
<b>BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup></b> Bromate	By-products of drinking water disinfection	2021	1 PPB	Zero PPB	Not Applicable	2.0 PPB	4.9 PPB	10 PPB	Zero PPB	✓
<b>Cl</b> Chlorine	Disinfectant	2021	0.1 PPM (distribution system)	0.3 PPM	0.9 PPM	Not Applicable	1.8 PPM	4 PPM (MRODL)	4 PPM (MRODL)	✓
			0.03 PPM (surface water)	0.5 PPM	Not Applicable	1.3 PPM	1.4 PPM	4 PPM (MRODL)	4 PPM (MRODL)	
			0.03 PPM (groundwater)	TT met at 100% of sites (TT= Maintain required chlorine level or restore within 4 hours)				TT	TT	
<b>Cb</b> Cryptosporidium <i>(estimated water)</i>	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	✓
<b>Turbidity</b> <i>(Cloudiness indicates effectiveness of filtration and disinfection)<sup>2</sup></i>	Soil runoff	2021	0.002 NTU	0.02 NTU	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0.54 NTU	1 NTU in all finished water samples, 95% of the finished water samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	Zero NTU	✓
<b>C</b> Total Organic Carbon	Naturally present in the environment	2021	1 PPM	Zero PPM	Not Applicable	0.5 PPM	1.4 PPM	TT	Not Applicable	✓
<b>Coli</b> Total Coliform	Coliforms are bacteria that are normally present in the environment	2021	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 <sup>1</sup>		Maximum LRAA	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (Disinfection by-products are regulated based on the DBP)		Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	
<b>HAA5</b> Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	By-product of chlorination	2021	0.48 - 0.50 PPB	0.45 - 20 PPB		8.4 PPB	40 PPB		Not Applicable	✓
<b>THM</b> Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	By-product of chlorination	2021	0.5 PPB	1.4 - 38 PPB		29.3 PPB	80 PPB		Not Applicable	✓
SUBSTANCE	Source	Sample Year	Detection Limit	90th Percentile	Number of Samples that Exceeded Action Level	Maximum Detected	Action Level (Compared to the concentration detected in the 90th percentile sample)		Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	
<b>Pb</b> Lead <i>See Common Concerns at far right.</i>	Corrosion of household plumbing	2021	1 PPB	2 PPB	Zero	4 PPB	15 PPB		Zero PPB	✓
<b>Cu</b> Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing	2021	0.01 PPM	0.1 PPM	Zero	0.15 PPM	1.3 PPM		1.3 PPM	✓

# Detected Contaminants

## 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

SUBSTANCE	Sample Year	Minimum Reporting Level	Range of Results	Average of Results
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

# Compliance With Other Drinking Water Regulations

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### Should I be concerned about lead?

The Water Authority removes 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.abowua.org/your-drinking-water-lead-sample-collection-request/](http://www.abowua.org/your-drinking-water-lead-sample-collection-request/) to schedule a test.

RESULTS OF 2021 CUSTOMER-REQUESTED LEAD TESTING (22 SAMPLES)

SUBSTANCE	Minimum	Maximum Detected	90th Percentile	Action Level
Pb Lead	Zero PPB	20.0 PPB	2.0 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).*

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### What about sodium?

Sodium levels in the Water Authority's service area range from 21 to 87 PPM (average: 35 PPM). For more information, visit [www.abowua.org](http://www.abowua.org) and click on the Your Water tab.

## DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS: WHAT EPA SAYS



# Required Educational Language





RESULTS OF 2021 CUSTOMER-REQUESTED LEAD TESTING (22 SAMPLES)

SUBSTANCE	Minimum	Maximum Detected	90th Percentile	Action Level
<b>Pb</b> Lead	Zero PPB	20.0 PPB	2.0 PPB	15 PPB

# Voluntary Lead Sampling Program Results

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# QUESTIONS?

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