

Why are there Contaminants in my Drinking Water?

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 from human activity. Contaminants in drinking water may include:



Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals can be naturally-occurring or 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 stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring, man-made from nuclear facilities, or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

Arsenic

The drinking water standard for arsenic is 10 µg/l. Arsenic occurs naturally in the earth's crust. When these arsenic-containing rocks, minerals, and soil erode, they release arsenic into ground water. In 2008 SDCW drinking water met the new standard. Although some individual wells in the Buckman wellfield contain arsenic above 10 µg/l, the water from different Buckman wells is blended in the Buckman Tank before being distributed to SDCW Customers. Therefore, compliance with the federal standard is measured at the Buckman Tank. Under very rare pumping conditions, SDCW may not meet the arsenic standard at the Buckman Tank compliance point. These include:

- Total water system demand is greater than 10 million gallons per day and the Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant is limited because of drought or off-line.
- Buckman wells with lower arsenic-concentrations and other water supply sources are not operational.

In 2006 SDCW requested and received an exemption from the new arsenic standard for a period of 3 years (ending December 31, 2008).

The exemption was granted by the New Mexico Environment Department and is based on continued public health protection and a strategy for compliance. The strategy includes:

- Operating Buckman wells in specified combinations to achieve the lowest blended arsenic concentration. In the compliance period 2005 - 2007 this approach resulted in arsenic levels at the Buckman Tank compliance point of 6 µg/l.
- Construction of the Buckman Direct Diversion, which will supply treated surface water low in arsenic and will be used to supplement or replace existing high arsenic containing ground-water wells.
- Improvements to the Canyon Road Treatment Plant to increase production from 4 million gallons per day to 8 million gallons per day to allow for greater utilization of low-arsenic Santa Fe River water.

While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's new 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.

Disinfection By-Products (DBPs)

During disinfection, chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in the water. The reaction forms disinfection by-products (DBPs). Sources with higher organic levels include surface waters, such as lakes, rivers and streams. Groundwater, especially those from deep wells, tends to contain little organic matter. SDCW is required

to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not the City's drinking water meets health standards. Monitoring for the DBPs - trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s) are required to be performed quarterly (every 3 months).

A study was conducted in 2008 to determine the location of future compliance sampling sites for DBPs. In addition to the 9 compliance sites currently monitored, an additional 16 sites were selected for sampling based on the potential for increased DBP formation. A total of 132 samples were analyzed in 2008. No sample exceeded the standards set for DBPs. The range of results for HAA5s was 0.03 to 37.92 mG/L and the range of results for THMs was 0.2 to 73.8 mG/L. A report will be submitted to NMED with these data proposing future compliance sampling points which are representative of high DBP levels.

Cryptosporidium

In April 2007 the City began a two-year study to determine the average Cryptosporidium concentration in source water entering the Canyon Road Water Treatment facility. The sampling portion of the study was completed in March 2009. The study is part of the requirements contained in the 2006 USEPA Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Based on the results of the study no additional treatment at the Canyon Road Water Treatment Facility will be required. The mean concentration of Cryptosporidium is less than <0.075 oocysts/liter.



Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite that is common in surface waters. Cryptosporidium is introduced into our source waters via wild animal populations. The oocyst is the transmission stage of the organism. Although the organism is readily removed by the conventional treatment process utilized at the Canyon Road Water Treatment facility, the oocyst is resistant to chemical disinfectants like chlorine and the primary reason to determine if additional treatment is required. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection.

Cryptosporidium was detected in a single untreated sample in December of 2007, September 2008 and October 2008.

Nitrates

City of Santa Fe drinking water meets the federal drinking water standard of 10 ppm for nitrates. Nitrates have been detected in some of the City Wells above 5 ppm. 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 advice from your health care provider.

Lead and Copper Sampling

Tests for lead and copper are taken from customer taps located throughout the City once every three years. The next round of lead and copper testing will take place in the summer of 2009. Testing at customer taps was conducted in 2006.

	Copper (ppm)	Lead (ppb)
MCLG	1.3	0
AL	1.3	15
City Water Levels (90th percentile)*	0.240	<5
# of Sample <AL	29	30
Sample Date	19-Sep-06	19-Sep-06
Exceeds AL	No	No
Typical Source	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

*Results of monitoring are used to determine the concentration at the 90th percentile (e.g., 100 samples analyzed, the 90th highest.)

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 City of Santa Fe 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Contacts for Additional Information

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this report please contact Bryan Snyder at 955-4201 or write to the address on page 1.

City of Santa Fe Billing Information and Customer Service 955-4333
New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Program (877) 654-8720

Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hot Line (800) 426-4791

New Mexico Environment Department
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us>

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater

U.S. Geological Survey
<http://nm.water.usgs.gov>

Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov>

City of Santa Fe's Website
www.santafenm.gov

Important Drinking Water Definitions



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.

TT: Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

2008 City of Santa Fe Water Quality Table

The table on the following page lists contaminants which:

1. Have associated Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that are regulated and;
2. Were detected in testing conducted by the City and New Mexico Environment Department. Contaminants were detected at or above detection limits established by the USEPA in calendar year 2008 or the most recent test if a sample was not analyzed in 2008.

The compounds detected represent a small fraction of the substances that SDCW tested for. Testing is required for over 80 contaminants. The EPA requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Drinking water, including bottled, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these 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), or visiting www.epa.gov/safewater.

Results of Voluntary Monitoring

EPA has established secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCL). SMCLs are non-enforceable standards that serve as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water. The presence of these contaminants typically results from the erosion of natural deposits. Aluminum and manganese containing materials are used as treatment aids in the water treatment process.

In cooperation with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the New Mexico Environment Department, the City monitors Buckman Wells 1, 6 and 8 for LANL derived contamination. Samples have been analyzed for radiologicals, general inorganics, metals, high explosives and organics. The results indicate detectable levels of radionuclides associated with natural sources. No Laboratory-derived radionuclides were detected in 2008. Repeat sampling since 2001 indicates Laboratory-derived radionuclides are not present in the Buckman Wells 1, 2, 6 and 8. These wells are part of the 13 wells that make-up the Buckman Wellfield. Water from these wells is delivered to the Buckman Tank prior to distribution into the system.



Parameter	Units	SMCL	City Well Field		Canyon Road Plant		Buckman Well Field	
			Range		Range		Range	
			Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Aluminum	mg/l	0.05-0.2		ND	ND	0.21	ND	0.115
Chloride	mg/l	250	ND	44.8	25	27.48	2.69	7.8
Copper	mg/l	1	ND	0.02		ND	ND	0.054
Iron mg/l		0.3		ND		ND	ND	0.95
Manganese	mg/l	0.05		ND		ND	0.046	0.054
pH		6.5-8.5	7.7	7.93	7.4	7.5	7.04	8.21
Silver	mg/l	0.1		ND		ND	ND	ND
Sulfate	mg/l	250	ND	75.6	21.38	26	ND	29
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	500	204	372	130	148	170	890
Zinc	mg/l	5		ND		ND	ND	0.023
Hardness (Ca & Mg)	mg/l	NA	131.89	226.58		32	16.54	494.19

SMCL – Secondary Drinking Water Standard – monitoring recommended, **ND** – Not Detected
NA – Not Applicable, **mg/l** – milligrams per liter

City of Santa Fe 2008 Water Quality Table



City of Santa Fe Water Division
P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504

Customer Service (505) 955-4333
Administration (505) 955-4202

2008 Water Quality Report



Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	City Well Field ^d	Range ^c 2007-2008		Sample Date	Buckman Tank ^f	Range ^c 2007-2008		Sample Date	Canyon Rd. WTP	Range ^c 2007-2008		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High			Low	High			Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants																	
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	5	1.2	5	03-Jun-08	8			20-May-08	ND			20-May-08	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards. Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.7	ND	0.7	03-Jun-08	0.1			20-May-08	ND			20-May-08	No	Discharge from drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium [Total]	ppb	100	100	2	ND	2	01-Jul-08	5			20-May-08	ND			20-May-08	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.28	0.15	0.28	01-Jul-08	0.51			20-May-08	0.12			20-May-08	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Cyanide	ppm	0.2	0.2	0.044	ND	0.044	10-Dec-08	ND			20-May-08	ND			20-May-08	No	Discharge from steel/metals factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Nitrate [as N]	ppm	10	10	7.3	0.53	2.3	01-Jul-08	1.4			20-May-08	ND			20-May-08	No	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion from natural deposits.
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	15.8	5.7	15.8	10-Jul-08	84			10-Dec-08	12			10-Dec-08	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from de-icing agent used on roads.
Radioactive Contaminants																	
Gross Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	15	0	2.7	1.3	2.83	05-Jul-07	7.1			21-Sep-07	0.7			21-Sep-07	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50 ^a	NA	1.8	ND	2.38	21-Sep-07	7.2			21-Sep-07	1			21-Sep-07	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	0.36	ND	2.08	21-Sep-07	0.63			21-Sep-07	0.34			21-Sep-07	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	ppb	30	0	2	ND	2	21-Sep-07	9			21-Sep-07	ND			21-Sep-07	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants																	
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	ppb	400	400	8.7	ND	8.7	03-Jun-08	ND			20-May-08 22-Oct-08	ND			20-May-08 10-Dec-08	No	Discharge from chemical factories.
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products																	
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	ppb	60	NA	1.7	0.33	4.01	Sampled Qtrly/2008	12.85	ND	26.27	Sampled Qtrly/2008	17.63	1.31	33.4	Sampled Qtrly/2008		By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethane]	ppb	80	NA	0.775	0.2	1.6	Sampled Qtrly/2008	2.9	2.3	3.5	Sampled Qtrly/2008	40.98	ND	73.8	Sampled Qtrly/2008	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Surface Water Contaminants																	
Turbidity ^d (highest single measurement)	NTU	TT = 0.3	0	NA				NA				0.4	NA	NA	Continuous	No	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity ^d (lowest monthly % meeting limits)	NTU	TT = Percentage <0.3 NTU	0	NA				NA				99.5%	99.5%	100%	Continuous	No	Soil Runoff.
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	ppm	TT	NA	NA				NA				45 to 60% Removal ^b	4.3	9.4	Monthly in 2008	No	Naturally present in the environment.

- Notes:**
- EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
 - The City complies with alternative compliance criteria to meet TOC removal requirements.
 - The range represents the high and low values. Range values are not given if only one sample was taken during the range period.
 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
 - City wellfield: Alto, Auga Fria, Ferguson, Osage, Santa Fe, St. Michael & Torreon.
 - Buckman wells 1-13 and Northwest well.

Key to Units, Terms and Abbreviations

- NA: Not Applicable
- ND: Not Detected
- NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommend
- ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

- ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ug/l: Number of micrograms of substance per liter of water
- mg/l: Number of milligrams of substance per liter of water
- TT: A Treatment Technique standard was set instead of an Maximum Contaminant Level

The City of Santa Fe's Sangre De Cristo Water Division (SDCW) is pleased to provide the 2008 Water Quality Report. A safe and dependable water supply is vital to our community and is the primary mission of SDCW. The report is provided annually and contains information on calendar year 2008 water quality. In 2008, SDCW drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water quality limits. The report contains additional details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies.

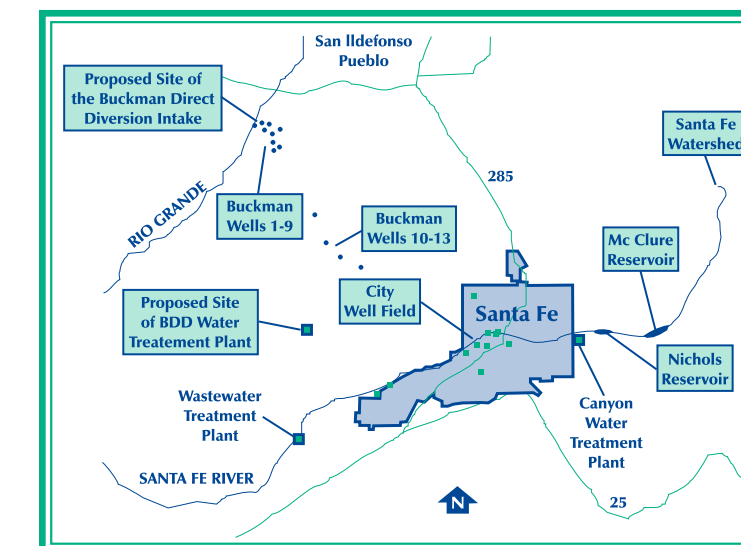
Sources of Supply

The SDCW is served by three distinct sources of supply. The 17,000 acre Santa Fe Watershed provides surface runoff to the Santa Fe River where it is stored in the McClure and Nichols Reservoir prior to treatment. Surface water is treated through a conventional treatment process at the Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant. The City Well Field is mostly located in close proximity to the Santa Fe River and consists of 8 active wells located within the City limits of Santa Fe. The Buckman Well Field consists of 13 active wells located near the Rio Grande, approximately 15 miles northwest of Santa Fe. All three sources are treated with chlorine which is used for disinfection and pathogenic microorganism reduction. Fluoride is added to the water supply to benefit the community as recommended by public health professionals.

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 at 800-426-4791.

Map of Water Sources



Source Water Assessment and its Availability

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) completed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Santa Fe. This assessment includes a determination of source water protection areas and an inventory of pollution sources within the areas of concern. NMED concluded: "The Susceptibility Analysis of the City of Santa Fe water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated, and the sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on an evaluation of the available information. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is **"moderately low"**. A copy of the Assessment is available by contacting NMED at 505-476-8631.

City ordinances adopted in 2005 built upon the recommendations in the Source Water Assessment. The "Safe Drinking Water and Source Water Protection" and the "Stormwater Illicit Discharge Control" ordinances provide additional controls and protections for the City's ground and surface water supplies. In addition, the City established a Stormwater Program with the goal of reducing pollutant discharged to the Santa Fe River. A hotline has been set up (955-5644) to report illegal dumping in storm drains, streets and arroyos.

En Español

Este reporte contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en Santa Fe. Si tiene alguna pregunta o duda sobre este reporte puede hablarle a Victor Archuleta al telefono 505-955-4370.