

Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association Consumer Confidence Report for 2021

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 15 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

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?

Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association's water sources consist of 3 underground mountain springs located in and around Jemez Springs (Aqua Derme Spring, Gallagher Spring, and Sino

Spring). These springs feed into large, sealed holding tanks. There, the water is treated to protect against microbial contaminants. One of our sources is also treated to remove arsenic. This report provides a summary of the laboratory test data that substantiates the high quality of our spring-fed water.

Source Water Assessment and its availability

New Mexico Environment Department conducted a Source Water Assessment in May, 2004. A copy of this report is available at the JSDWA office for inspection. Questions may also be directed to the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau. The contact there is David Torres at (505) 259-5048 or david.torres@state.nm.us.

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 material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: 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, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, 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; and 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, 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.

How can I get involved?

Contact the Jemez Springs DWUA office for details

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Other Information

The JSDWA Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of every month. The public is always welcome at these meetings. If you have questions about your drinking water or want to get involved, please call us at 575-829-3083 or email us at jsdwa@windstream.net.

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. Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association 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.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detect In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-----------|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .4 | .3 | .4 | 2021 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 2.91 | 2.04 | 2.91 | 2021 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 13.5 | 4.52 | 13.5 | 2021 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Antimony (ppb) | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2021 | No | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition. |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 16 | 1 | 16 | 2021 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .081 | .014 | .081 | 2021 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.34 | .48 | 1.34 | 2021 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2021 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | .4 | .24 | .4 | 2021 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage |
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform (RTCR) | NA | TT | NA | NA | NA | 2021 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Total Coliform (TCR) (positive samples/month) | 0 | 1 | 1 | NA | NA | 2021 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 1.1 | 0 | 1.1 | 2021 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr) | 0 | 4 | 3.1 | .1 | 3.1 | 2021 | No | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles. |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | .08 | .01 | .08 | 2021 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|--|------|-----|------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|--|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | .12 | 2017 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 6 | 2017 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

| Violations and Exceedances |
|--|
| <p>Arsenic Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The violations occurred in quarters 1-3 In December 2019, the media in the Arsenic Treatment Plant was replaced. Since then we have been monitoring levels with sampling and working with NMED to correct the arsenic levels and get back within regulatory amounts.</p> |
| <p>Level 1 Assessment and Sanitary Defects Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.</p> <p>During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment(s). One Level 1 Assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action(s) and we completed one assessment(s).</p> |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Term | Definition |
| 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) |
| mrem/yr | mrem/yr: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body) |
| positive samples/month | positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive |
| % positive samples/month | % positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|---|-------------------|
| Term | Definition |

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|---|---|
| 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 |

For more information please contact:

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