

Cottonwood Rural Water MDWCA 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

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.

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?

Water for the Cottonwood Rural Water Association is drawn from the San Andres aquifer. The depth of one well is 900 feet, and it is cement grouted down to 520 feet. The aquifer being drawn from is composed of bedded limestone. We also added a new well for 2012. The depth of the well is greater than 750 feet and it has a cement grouted sanitary seal.

Source water assessment and its availability

The susceptibility of the Cottonwood Rural Water Association 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 well construction, hydro-geologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is Moderate.

For more information about the source water assessment program (SWAPP) contact the Drinking Water Bureau at 505-476-8620 or toll free at 1-877-654-8720.

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?

Cottonwood Rural Water Association meets the third Tuesday of each month, except for April, when we hold our annual meeting.

Additional Information for Lead

Cottonwood Water MDWCA was required to submit a lead line inventory to NMED - Drinking Water Bureau before October 16, 2024. Our system does not include lead service lines with the exception of one (1) customer's line after the water meter. For information or a copy of the inventory, please contact Cottonwood Water MDWCA.

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. Cottonwood Water MDWCA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and

removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Cottonwood Water MDWCA (Public Watersystem Id: NM3555008) by calling 575-746-9597 or emailing crwc@pvt.net. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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	0.36	0.17	0.36	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2.1	0	2.1	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.017	0.015	0.017	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1	0.86	1.1	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	3	0.5	3	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	00	15	3.7	1.4	3.7	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	00	5	0.27	0.17	0.27	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Uranium (ug/L)	00	30	2	1	2	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0964	NA	0.0964	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	2	NA	2	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

We received a violation on 1/24/2024 for failing to correct all significant deficiencies identified during the 2023 sanitary survey. We still have not corrected all deficiencies and remain out of compliance with NMED. The following has not been corrected:

- No or Inadequate Operation and Maintenance Plan

We received a violation on 3/14/2024 for failing to provide public notice to customers regarding the violation above. We did provide public notice and have returned to compliance regarding the violation issued on 3/14/2024.

We received a violation from the EPA for failing to provide a lead line inventory to NMED. We were required to provide the inventory to NMED for 10/16/2024. We must still submit the lead line inventory, or we will be issued an administrative order (AO) from the EPA.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
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)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
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
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

TT Violation	Explanation	Length	Explanation and Comment	Health Effects Language
Ground Water Rule violations	Failure Address Deficiency (GWR)	Have not corrected	Cottonwood Water MDWCA was required to provide a complete Operation & maintenance plan to NMED.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Cottonwood Rural Water Assn.
Address: PO BOX 1484
ARTESIA, NM 88210
Phone: 575-746-9597