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 accurate and last year; we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and only detected 11 of those contaminants which were all within EPA limits.

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’s 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 (800-426-4781).

Where does my water come from?

Water supply for the Village of Ruidoso is derived from a combination of surface- and ground-water sources in the Ruidoso and Eagle Creek watersheds. Consequently, the Village’s ability to produce surface water from these sources is greatly affected by temperature and precipitation and can significantly change from year to year. The Village works diligently to deliver safe drinking water in a systematic approach balancing all sources of water supply. Water delivered in 2018 was in compliance with safe water drinking standards.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment was completed in 2005. Building on that, a source water protection plan was prepared by the Village of Ruidoso in conjunction with the New Mexico Environmental Department Drinking Water Bureau and was completed in 2014. A copy of the Source Water Protection Plan is available on the Village of Ruidoso’s website (www.ruidoso-nm.gov). In addition to establishing measures to monitor and protect Ruidoso’s sources of drinking water, this plan also assembles valuable information about Ruidoso’s hydrogeology and water sources into a single document that can serve as an important reference in the future.

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 (800-426-4781).

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?

For concerns or questions regarding your drinking water, please contact the Village of Ruidoso Water Production Department at (575) 257-5525, or reply by mail at 313 Cree Meadows Drive Ruidoso, NM 88345. The Village website also provides information for easy public access. Go to www.Ruidoso-nm.gov.
2018 Water Department Accomplishments

- Completed 2090 feet of 6” water line and installed new fire hydrants in Holbrook Circle
- Constructed 2250 feet of 6” water line and installed new fire hydrants at Dora
- Worked with New Mexico Environmental Department (NMEQD) in the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP)
- Completed the MRCD Performance Based Training for Grundyton & Alto Crest WTP’s
- Completed the emergency repair of Grundyton (Plant 4) clearwell
- Installed 31 variable frequency drives (VFD’s) at Grundyton (Plant 4) clearwell
- MolzenCorbin completed the engineering for the Alto Crest WTP chemical storage building
- Rehabilitation 4- V well
- Rehabilitated Airport Well
- Completed Airport Tank Well project
- Rehabilitated Airport pumphouse
- Replaced control panels and flow meters at Grundyton WTP
- Replaced polymer tanks and mixers at Grundyton WTP
- Installed new effluent vault and flow meter at Alto Crest WTP
- Installed new wastewater wash out at the Alto Crest WTP
- Installed new PRV & concrete fallhout at Can_TIM 1 PRV
- Completed annual calibration for meter/lab equipment at Grundyton & Alto Crest WTP’s
- Completed annual emergency generator inspection
- Completed LT2 testing for Grundyton & Alto Crest WTP’s

2018 Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA regulates substances that 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 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 or radionuclides 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.

Water Conservation Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Discuss chemical properties, use least toxic oil in a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or water protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA’s Adapt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watered Information Resource’s How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm-drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or “Protect Your Water.” Distribute a informative flyer for householders to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Source Water Protection Tips

- 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/watertrends for more information.

Recreational and Drinking Water Protection

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 with lead-based solders or Solders that are used in the manufacturing and service lines and home plumbing. Village of Ruidoso 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 at or through the MRCD Water Department.

Lab Descriptions

- **mg/L**: milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- **µg/L**: micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **pCi/L**: picocuries per liter (pCi/L)
- **NTU**: turbidity unit
- **Optical Density**: % absorption
- **MDL**: Minimum Detection Limit
- **MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level
- **MCLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- **MRDLG**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
- **MRDL**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminants</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MDL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Detect In Water</th>
<th>Range Low</th>
<th>Range High</th>
<th>Sample Date</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Typical Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inorganic Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barium</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Rannoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Microbiological Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Soil runoff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Radioactive Contaminants</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha emitters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Radium (combined 226/228)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uranium (µg/L)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Drinking Water Definitions</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is known or expected risk to health. MCLG allow for small levels of health risks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are enforceable using the best available treatment technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variance and Exemption: Variance or Exemption must meet on MCL or a treatment technique water quality control</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant which is known or expected to be toxic to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfection</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. A variance that is evident to the extent that a product is necessary for compliance with other requirements which a water system must follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRV: MCL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level</td>
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</table>

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and see how much you can save. Nature is not a resource that we can use up. A few simple ideas and precautions can make a major difference in the conservation effort.

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