

# **2024 Waterfall Community Water Users Association 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 (8004264791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground under the direct influence of surface water derived from a spring known locally as Culberson Spring. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

As our water comes from a spring, it is classified as ground water under the direct influence of surface water and as a result has a high sensitivity to contamination. A copy of the NMED Source Water Assessment & Protection Program (SWAPP) is available on request to the Board of Directors, Waterfall Community WI-JA, 18 Waterfall Dr., Cloudcroft, NM 88317 or If you would like more information regarding the source water assessment, please contact the Drinking Water Bureau at 505-476-8760 or toll free 1-877-654-8720.

## SOURCE SUSCEPTIBILITY RANKING

Source Name	Sensitivity Rank	Vulnerability Rank	Susceptibility Rank	Operational Exceptions	Final Rank
Spring	High	Moderate	Moderately		Moderately High

### **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 byproducts 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?**

Be conservative in your water use. We are in a drought-prone region and seasonal weather influences our water source. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply and meet federal and state requirements, it will be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements will be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments will be necessary to address these necessary costs to implement repairs and improvements.

## **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.
- Running 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 uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill.
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Source Water Protection 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 it to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network'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. " Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Cross-connections in Waterfall Community WUA.**

Consumers that use an advanced treatment system (ATS) in the Waterfall Composite Area are considered a cross-connection to the Waterfall Community WUA and must receive a Tertiary ATS-Approval of Liquid Waste Permit from the New Mexico Environment Department.

## **Additional Information for Lead**

Waterfall Community WUA was required to submit a lead line inventory to NMED - Drinking Water Bureau in September 2024. Our system does not include lead service lines.

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. Waterfall Community WUA 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>.

## **Other Information**

Ray Abel Martinez certified operator ID is NM05206 for Waterfall Community Water Users Association. (575) 921-7931

## **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

The Waterfall Community WUA water system did not report disinfectant residuals collected from distribution during the 2nd quarter of 2024 (June). We returned to compliance regarding this violation on 7/17/2024.

Waterfall Community WUA water system did not complete the monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water during the 2011 and 2020-2022 monitoring periods. We returned to compliance regarding this violation on 9/26/24 when the lead and copper test was performed.

Waterfall Community WUA did not provide public notice to our customers and did not return the public notice certification form to New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) for a Failure to Hire Certified Operator, Notice of Violation (NOV) issued on August 9, 2023. We notified our membership on 9/27/24 and provided the Public Notification Certification Form on 10/8/24.

## **Significant Deficiencies**

On August 20, 2024, the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) conducted a sanitary survey site visit at the Waterfall Community WUA. One (1) significant deficiency was identified:

1. Inadequate storage facility foundation

We created a retaining wall around storage tank #4 and the deficiency was corrected within the 120-day deadline. We are now back in compliance.

## **Water Quality Data Table**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number 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 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 MRDL	MCL, TT,or IvIRD	Detect Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	.9	0	.9	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.027	NA	NA	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper water (ppm)	NA		.021	NA	NA	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead - source water (ppb)	NA		1.7	NA	NA	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.56	.56	1	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks,
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDL	MCL, TT, or MRD	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
								sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.4	1.7	2.4	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combine 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.15	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
µg/L	µg/L : Number of micrograms of substance in 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	
Tenn	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: TIE 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: TIE concentration of a contaminant which, if other triggers treatment or 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	N(RDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG do not reflect The benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	BAIRDGLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level. TIE highest level of disinfectant is 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	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level