

2013 Quality Drinking Water Report for San Miguel Del Bado MDWCA

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquesese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

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?

Ground Water

Source water assessment and its availability

New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau completed a Source Water Assessment for the San Miguel Del Bado MDWCA system. Please contact Rosalie Robinson for more information at 575-762-3728.

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?

We encourage members of the community to attend monthly meetings held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the South San Ysidro Community Center/El Valle Water Alliance Office at 6:30PM. If you have any questions regarding your Water and water system feel free to contact the water operator Carlos Vigil at 505-206-0621 or simply call our office at 575-421-3892.

STATUS OF WATER IN NEW MEXICO AND CALL FOR CONSERVATION

Water is New Mexico's most precious and natural resource. New Mexico has experienced several consecutive years of drought and meteorologists predict that it will continue. Water conservation is especially important during times of drought. Additionally, and arguably more critical, most aquifers in the state are being depleted. Decreasing water levels in aquifers and surface sources can increase the concentration of minerals and contaminants in the drinking water supply.

We at El Valle Water Alliance are committed to providing a safe and consistent supply of water and we ask for your help. There are a lot of simple ways to reduce the amount of water used both inside and outside the home. Please conserve water whenever possible by taking the following steps:

- 1.Know your water supply provider and follow existing water restrictions.
- 2.Stop leaks. Toilets are the largest water user inside the home. Over time, toilet flappers can decay or minerals can build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself quickly. You can get instructions for testing for leaks with dye tabs for free (with free tabs) from the Office of the State Engineer's District Offices or call 1-800-WATERNM.
- 3.Check outdoor fixtures (swamp coolers, irrigation systems, etc) for leaks and repair any leaks.
- 4.Consider turning the swamp cooler off when away from home.
- 5.Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter. Make sure irrigation systems are working properly (and you are not watering the house, sidewalk or street) and use only the minimum amount of water needed by plants.
- 6.Run water only when using it. Turn water off while brushing teeth, shaving, and/or washing counters.
- 7.Wash only full loads of laundry. Install a water efficient clothes washer (and save 16 gallons per load).
- 8.Take 5 minute showers.
- 9.Flush toilets only when necessary.
- 10.When upgrading or replacing household fixtures, install low-flow toilets, showerheads, washing machines, and faucets.

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. San Miguel del Bado MDWCA 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>. Then next lead and copper test will take place in 2015.

Additional Information for Fluoride

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by the San Miguel del Bado MDWCA water system has a fluoride concentration of 3.9 mg/l.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please call Carlos Vigil, operator for San Miguel del Bado MDWCA water system at 575-721-3892. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.”

Administrative Orders

On December 17, 2009, Administrative Order (AO) No. 2009-CO-032 was issued to the San Miguel del Bado water system for exceedance of the fluoride maximum contaminant level (MCL) and for not having a certified operator. San Miguel del Bado has hired a certified operator to manage the system and, since the second quarter of 2012, fluoride values in our drinking water have not exceeded the 4.0 milligrams per liter MCL. San Miguel del Bado has returned to compliance with all regulations and the AO issued in 2009 was closed in March 2014. However, our fluoride levels are still elevated and San Miguel del Bado is working with the New Mexico Environment Department on a plan to lower fluoride levels in our water.

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.

| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG or MRDL</u> | <u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u> | <u>Your Water</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Sample Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 3 | NA | 2013 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 3.9 | 3.79 | 3.91 | 2013 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 2 | NA | | 2013 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium (optional) | NA | MPL | 416 | NA | | 2009 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching |

Radioactive Contaminants

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----|------|--------|----------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Radium (combined) | 0 | 5 | 0.87 | NA | | 2009 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 5.83 | NA | | 2009 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 50 | 1.53 | N A | 200 9 | No | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles. | |
| Uranium (ug/L) | 0 | 30 | 8.6 | N A | 200 9 | No | Erosion of natural deposits | |

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|----------------------------------------|------|-----|------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps | 0 | 15 | 2.85 | 2012 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.0575 | 2012 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of |

| Unit Descriptions | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Term | | Definition | | | | | |
| ppm | | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) | | | | | |
| ppb | | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | |

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