

*The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority administers the water and wastewater utility for all of Albuquerque and the metro area of Bernalillo County. The New Mexico State Legislature created the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority in June of 2003.*

- Chair Ken Sanchez City of Albuquerque Councilor, District 1
- Vice-Chair Wayne Johnson Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 5
- Members
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  - Art De La Cruz Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 2
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- Ex-Officio Member Pablo R. Rael Village of Los Ranchos Board Trustee
- Executive Director Mark S. Sanchez

*Monthly board meetings are held at the Vincent E. Griego Joint Chambers of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center. Meeting schedules and agenda are available at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).*

Design and graphics by Jan Underwood, Information Illustrated. Ken Sanchez photo by Kim Jew. All other photos by ABCWUA staff.

9/18/2012

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# Information about your drinking water

## 2011 Water Quality Report

### Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Customers:

The Water Authority is pleased to share this 2011 Water Quality Report. The report summarizes the most recent compliance monitoring results of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County municipal water supply as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Act.

Water Authority engineers, scientists, and certified operators are dedicated to ensuring the quality of our water, and in so doing, protecting the public health. In 2011, Water Authority employees collected more than 5,500 water samples and analyzed more than 54,000 test results. These results, some of which appear in this report, are used for compliance, process control, and water quality monitoring.

The USEPA requires water utilities to publish this information by July of each year. Because we know how important it is to our customers and our community, the Water Authority strives to deliver our Water Quality Report no later than April. The report's format and language are in compliance with USEPA specifications.

Feedback from our customers is a critical tool for providing quality drinking water. Should you have any comments or questions about your water, please contact the Water Quality Information Line at 857-8260 or send an email to [waterquality@abcwua.org](mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org).

Sincerely,



Ken Sanchez  
 City Councilor, District 1  
 Chair, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority



Ken Sanchez

*This report can be downloaded in English or Spanish from our web site at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org). There you'll find additional information about the quality of water delivered to your home. For assistance in interpreting this report, please call the Water Quality Information Line at 857-8260 or use the links on our web site to send us an email at [waterquality@abcwua.org](mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org).*

# Drinking Water Sources

The Albuquerque area relies on two sources for its drinking water: ground water from the Santa Fe Group Aquifer and San Juan-Chama surface water diverted from the Rio Grande via the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project.

In 2011, 92 wells supplied 19.9 billion gallons of drinking water, while the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project supplied 13.6 billion gallons. Ground water and purified surface water were blended to serve our customers.

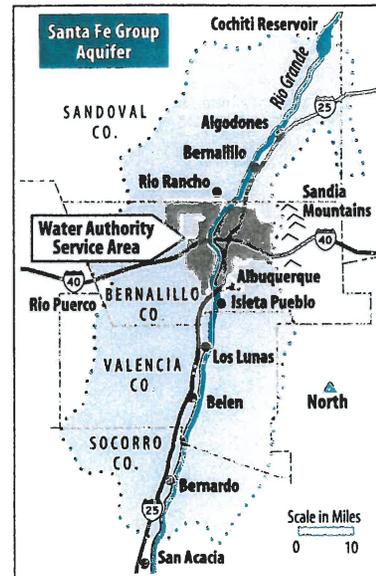
The aquifer is a vital resource on which not only Albuquerque, but the entire Middle Rio Grande Valley, depends for drinking water. Studies have shown that only about half of the water pumped from the aquifer is being replenished; the rest is "mined" – lost forever. San Juan-Chama surface water reduces dependence on the aquifer, allowing it to recover to serve as a drought reserve in times of minimal precipitation. In just a few years of San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project operation, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has reported that ground water levels are rising in the Albuquerque Basin.

The Office of the State Engineer monitors Water Authority use of San Juan-Chama surface water. Conditions include mandatory reductions in use through water conservation, no diversion during low river flow periods, no consumption of native Rio Grande water, and no impairment to downstream senior water rights holders.

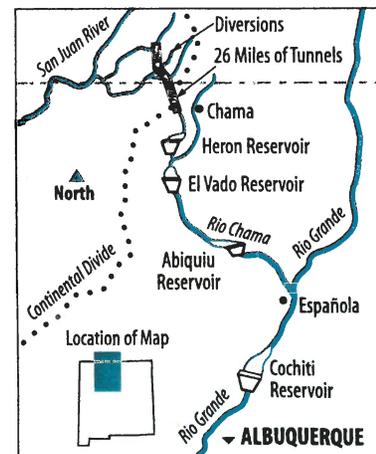
Additionally, water conservation efforts have helped. Thanks to our customers, we reduced our per capita water use to 150 gallons per day in 2011 – three years ahead of schedule.

The transition to surface water, reuse and recycling, and aquifer storage and recovery, along with water conservation, are the foundation of the Water Resources Management Strategy. The goal is to preserve and protect the aquifer to provide a safe and sustainable water supply.

**The Water Authority Water Resources Management Strategy is available at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).**



The Santa Fe Group Aquifer stretches from Cochiti Reservoir on the north to San Acacia on the south and from the Sandia Mountains on the east to (and beyond) the Rio Puerco on the west.



The San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project: Water from the Colorado River Basin makes its way to Albuquerque via a series of diversions, reservoirs, and rivers.

## Water Quality Protection

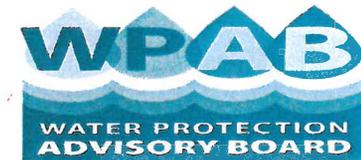
The Water Protection Advisory Board was established by a joint ordinance of the Water Authority, the City of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County. The purpose of the Board is to:

- study and advise the Water Authority, the City, and the County on surface and ground water protection concerns;
- oversee implementation of the Ground Water Protection Policy and Action Plan;
- promote consistency in actions to protect surface and ground water quality; and
- advocate effective surface and ground water quality protection.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Ground Water Protection Policy and Action Plan was adopted by the County in November 1993, the City in August 1994 and then by the Water Authority after its creation in 2003. The plan was updated and revised in 2009 with a Surface Water Protection Policy and Action Plan. Both plans were integrated into the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan. The mission is to ensure the quality of surface water and ground water resources so that public health, quality of life, and economic vitality of this and future generations are not diminished.

The Board is concerned with ground water contamination sites in the areas that may threaten wells. Priority sites include:

- Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility Spill
- Fruit Avenue Superfund site
- South Valley Superfund site
- Mountain View Nitrate Plume
- Gulton Industries site at I-40 and Tramway



Annual Reports present an overview of the Board's activities, primary accomplishments, and areas of focus. Regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. For meeting agendas, a copy of the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan or Annual Reports, visit [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org) or call 768-3634.

### New Mexico Environment Department Source Water Assessments

In 2002, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a Source Water Assessment to determine how susceptible each well is to contamination, based on aspects such as construction methods, geology, and proximity to contamination sites. The conclusions were that the wells were generally protected from potential sources of contamination.

Wells near known contamination sites are ranked highly susceptible to contamination. Potential sources of contamination include businesses that use hazardous chemicals such as automotive repair shops, gas stations, dry cleaners, paint and hardware stores, car washes, construction sites, golf courses, interstate highways and city streets, military facilities, sewer lines and septic tanks, and unlined arroyos, ditches, and drainage canals.

To request a copy of the Source Water Assessment for the Albuquerque Water System (System Number 10701), or for the North West Service Area (formerly New Mexico Utilities, Inc., System Number 10901), contact NMED Drinking Water District I Office in Albuquerque at 222-9500. Please include your name, address, and telephone number and the name and number of the water system in your request.

## Source Water Monitoring and Assessment

If the level of any regulated substance measured in the source water is close to the Maximum Contaminant Level, the Water Authority will restrict use of the source and investigate treatment options.

### Ground Water Monitoring

The Water Authority monitors both the water level and water quality in each well. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) measures well water levels every winter. Water Quality Specialists collect samples annually to monitor the chemical and biological characteristics of each well. While water quality in a single well does not vary much from year to year, water quality in wells in different parts of the aquifer can vary significantly.



A Water Authority Water Quality Laboratory Analyst prepares a sample for analysis using ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry).

Wells near known or suspected soil or ground water contamination sites are monitored more frequently. Trace levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) have been detected in wells in the vicinity of the Buena Vista and Coal Avenue leaking underground storage tank site. Clean-up of ground water contamination at Digital/Hewlett Packard has eliminated traces of VOCs previously detected in a nearby well.

### Surface Water Monitoring

The San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project is designed to produce drinking water that meets all USEPA standards for regulated substances, no matter the quality of source water.

San Juan-Chama surface water quality is monitored quarterly. Samples are collected by both the USGS and the Water Authority. Monitored substances include general chemistry parameters, microbiologicals, metals, organics, and radionuclides.

From 2009 through 2011, the Water Authority monitored to determine the presence of **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs)** in the San Juan-Chama surface water source and finished drinking water and in the community contributions to the wastewater treatment plant and treated wastewater discharged to the Rio Grande. PPCPs include a diverse collection of chemical substances including prescription and over-the-counter drugs, veterinary drugs, fragrances, lotions, and cosmetics.

The PPCPs in the finished drinking water in 2011 showed PPCPs detected in only 5% of the tests – no result greater than 0.2 PPB. Community PPCP contributions to the wastewater system were also monitored. As expected, higher concentrations of PPCPs were detected at the wastewater treatment plant. The report on the first year of occurrence monitoring results and the 2011 results are available at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

### WHAT THE USEPA SAYS ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) 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 human activity.

Contaminants in drinking water sources may include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 discharges, 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.

**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, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

*Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are provided in English and Spanish at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).*

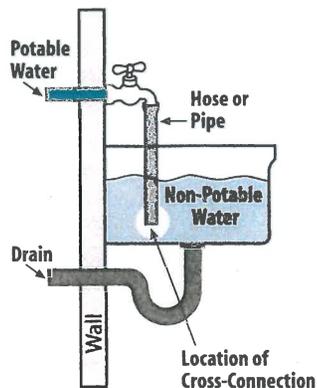
### National Prescription Drug Take-Back Pharmaceutical Program.

The Drug Enforcement Agency is sponsoring a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs to safely dispose of those medications. For information on drop off locations, visit: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html).

Do not flush your old or expired medications down the toilet. Find more information at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org)

**AguaRx**  
Prescription for a Healthy River

**Cross Connections:** Contaminants from cross-connected plumbing can backflow into drinking water supplies. A backflow is just what it sounds like: water flows in the opposite direction from its normal flow. Without proper protection, something as useful as a garden hose can contaminate the water supply inside your home. When you use a sprayer on the end of a hose, a change in water pressure could cause the water, and the chemicals, to flow in the opposite direction into your home. You can install simple, inexpensive devices on water taps to prevent backflow. To protect the water system from contamination, businesses and institutions that use hazardous materials are required to install backflow prevention devices. All irrigation systems must have backflow prevention devices. For more information, visit [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org), call the Cross Connection Control Office at 857-8210 or email [backflow@abcwua.org](mailto:backflow@abcwua.org).



*Cross-connections can happen when non-potable water in a basin covers the end of a faucet, hose, or pipe. The non-potable water in the basin can siphon back up into the potable water system, contaminating it.*

## Special monitoring for Hexavalent Chromium in 2011

Chromium is naturally occurring in rocks, soil, plants, and animals. Industrial uses include metal plating, leather tanning, paints, dyes, and wood preservatives. The MCL for total chromium is 100 PPB. Average total chromium levels in the water served to our customers monitored at the Entry Points to the Distribution System (EPTDS) was 1 PPB in 2011. Total chromium includes hexavalent chromium. USEPA is reviewing health toxicity studies for hexavalent chromium to determine if a new MCL needs to be set.

The Water Authority conducted special monitoring for hexavalent chromium and total chromium in sources, treatment facilities, EPTDS and distribution system locations. Monitoring results at the EPTDS were significantly below the current MCL for total chromium. The range of hexavalent chromium and total chromium results at the EPTDS from the 2011 special monitoring is summarized below.

Substance	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected
Hexavalent Chromium	0.08 PPB	1 PPB	7.6 PPB
Total Chromium	ND (<1 PPB)	1 PPB	7.1 PPB

Hexavalent chromium and total chromium are measured using different analytical methods. The difference in the maximum detected concentrations above are within the acceptable uncertainty levels for the methods.

## INFORMATION RESOURCES

	FOR INFORMATION ON:	CONTACTS:
Local - Albuquerque Service Area Only	Water Quality Complaints & Inquiries (Educational Materials, Science Fair Projects)	Water Quality Information Line: 857-8260 email: <a href="mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org">waterquality@abcwua.org</a> TTY 857-8206
	Water System Emergency Repair: 24 Hr Response	842-WATR (9287)
	Unusual Activity at Water Authority Facilities: 24 Hr Response	<a href="http://www.abcwua.org">www.abcwua.org</a>
	Water Bills & Service	
	On-line water bill payments	
	Water Conservation Rebate Programs, Xeriscaping, Audits, Ways to Conserve	
To Report Water Waste		
Cross Connection Control Office	857-8210 email: <a href="mailto:backflow@abcwua.org">backflow@abcwua.org</a>	
Water Protection Policy & Action Plan	768-3634	
Pollution Prevention / Industrial Pretreatment	873-7058 email: <a href="mailto:pretreatment@abcwua.org">pretreatment@abcwua.org</a>	
New Mexico	Water Regulations	New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau Albuquerque: 222-9500 Santa Fe: 1-877-654-8720 <a href="http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/dwbtop.html">www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/dwbtop.html</a>
	Source Water Assessments	
	Certified Analytical Laboratories (e.g. Lead Testing)	
United States	Drinking Water Quality	USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
	Precautions Required for Immuno-Compromised Individuals (e.g. HIV/AIDS Patients, Patients in Chemotherapy)	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater">www.epa.gov/safewater</a>

## In the News ...

### Drinking Water Fluoridation

In January 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and USEPA announced a proposed new recommended optimal level of 0.7 PPM for fluoridation of drinking water. The proposed recommendation replaces the original recommended range of 0.7 to 1.2 PPM set in 1962 by the U.S. Public Health Service. The updated recommendation is based on recent CDC and USEPA scientific assessments to balance the benefits of preventing tooth decay while limiting any unwanted health effects. The final recommendation is pending. In response to the proposed recommendation, the Water Authority ceased adding supplemental fluoride to the drinking water after its existing supplies of hydrofluorosilic acid (used for water fluoridation) were exhausted. Until a new recommended fluoridation optimal level is adopted, the water supply will contain only naturally occurring fluoride.

The concentration of fluoride in Entry Points to the Distribution System averaged 0.7 PPM in 2011. For information on fluoride in your distribution zone, visit: [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

The USEPA is currently reviewing the drinking water standard for fluoride (MCL = 4 PPM). The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences recommended that USEPA update its fluoride risk assessment to include new data on health risks and better estimates of total exposure. For more information visit: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/fluoride.cfm>.

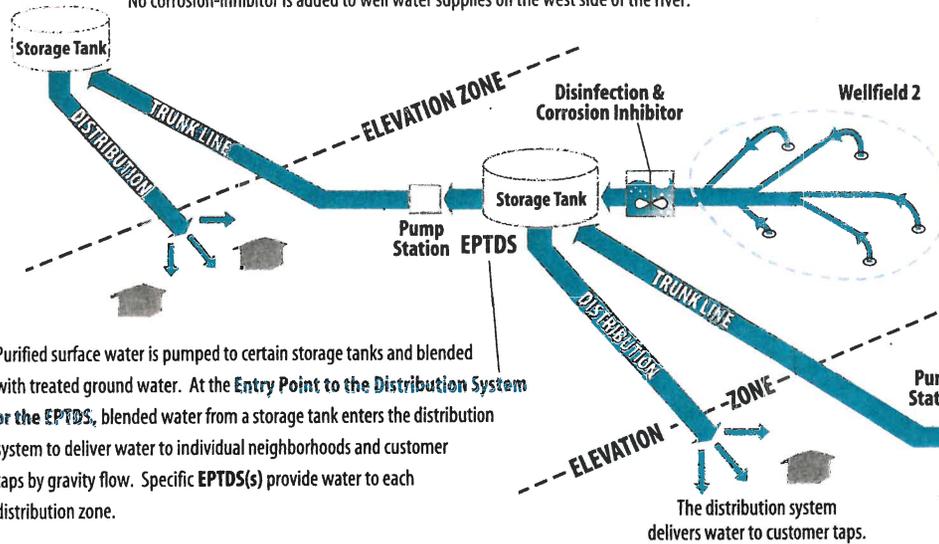
### Your Input Requested

**USEPA is seeking input from the public on effective methods for communicating drinking water information to the public while lowering the burden on water systems and states. The current regulation requires mailing of water quality reports to customers. Some alternative methods include: emailing the reports, emailing links to website reports or including a notice with the water bill. For more information or to provide input, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ccr/regulations.cfm>.**

# Monitoring Water Quality - How it Works

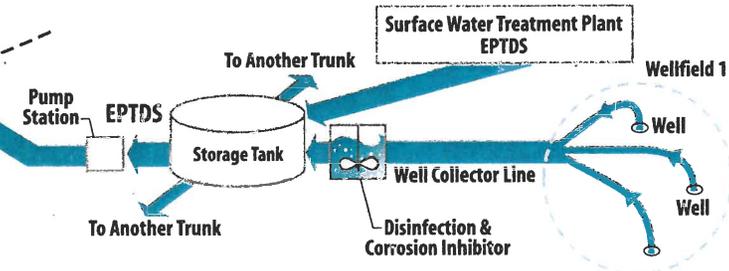
Ground water is moved from the wells to storage tanks in large diameter pipelines. The water is treated along the way. Treatment includes:

- **Disinfection** with sodium hypochlorite. Generated on-site from table salt and water, the product is like weak household bleach.
- Addition of a phosphate-based **corrosion inhibitor** to most well water supplies produced on the east side of the Rio Grande. No corrosion-inhibitor is added to well water supplies on the west side of the river.



From the valley to the heights, storage tanks are organized in trunks (example shown below). Pump stations move water from one storage tank to another. Purified surface water is pumped to storage tanks on both sides of the river and blended with treated water from wells. Samples are routinely taken at the EPTDS (see explanation below) to monitor water quality.

Purified surface water is pumped to certain storage tanks and blended with treated ground water. At the **Entry Point to the Distribution System** or the **EPTDS**, blended water from a storage tank enters the distribution system to deliver water to individual neighborhoods and customer taps by gravity flow. Specific **EPTDS(s)** provide water to each distribution zone.

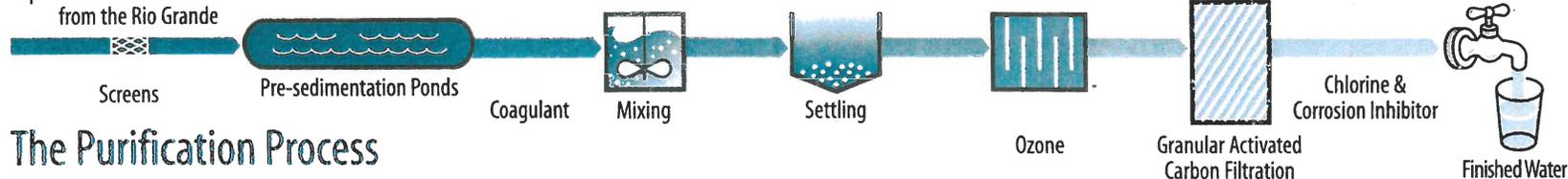


## 2011 Results Compliance Monitoring at the Surface Water Treatment Plant

USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected and how they must be analyzed. **The table below shows only the substances found in compliance monitoring for the finished water at the Surface Water Treatment Plant.** For surface water, USEPA also requires that specific treatment techniques are used and shown to be effective. For a list of 69 regulated substances that were not detected at the treatment plant, visit: [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

Substance	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Source
<b>Microbiological</b> Turbidity <i>A measure of cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of filtration.</i>	1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)	Zero NTU	0.02 NTU	Not Applicable	0.27 NTU	Soil runoff.
	95% of the finished water samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	Zero NTU	All samples taken in each month were less than 0.3 NTU			
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT (annual average is < 2.0 PPM)	Not Applicable	ND (< 1.0 PPM)	1.3 PPM	2.4 PPM	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Minerals</b> Fluoride	4 PPM	4 PPM	0.5 PPM	0.5 PPM	0.5 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nutrients</b> Nitrate as N	10 PPM	10 PPM	0.2 PPM	0.2 PPM	0.2 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Substance</b> Disinfectants Chlorine	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) 4 PPM	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) 4 PPM	Minimum Detected 0.4 PPM	Average Detected 1.3 PPM	Maximum Detected 2.7 PPM	Source Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite)

Imported San Juan-Chama Water from the Rio Grande



## The Purification Process

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

All compliance monitoring samples collected must be analyzed by a certified laboratory within a specified time period. Bromate monitoring samples were collected on November 10, 2011, December 8, 2011 and January 6, 2012. However, the USEPA certified New Mexico Department of Health Scientific Laboratory Division did not analyze the samples within the specified time period. The laboratory did not notify the Water Authority of the problem with the operations. As a result, additional samples could not be taken within the specified monitoring period.

The Water Authority is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not the drinking water meets health standards. In November and December 2011 and January 2012, monitoring for bromate was not completed. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what was done to correct the situation.

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. Please be assured that if a situation arises so that the water is not safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours with announcements made on the radio and TV.

### What is being done?

The Water Authority is using an alternative certified laboratory to perform the analyses.

For more information, please contact Water Quality Specialist Mike Richardson at the Water Quality Information Line at phone number 857-8260, by mail at ABCWUA, P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103 or by email at [waterquality@abcwua.org](mailto:waterquality@abcwua.org).

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

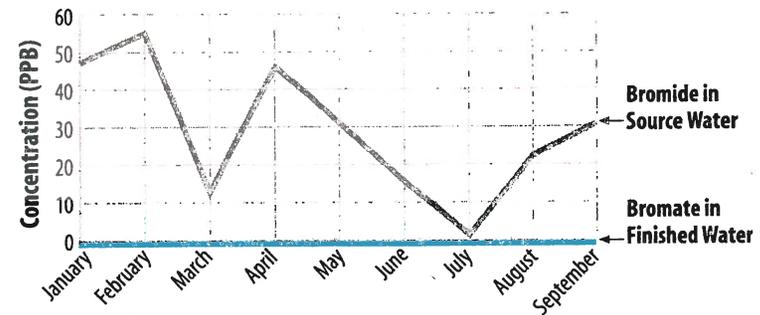
### What is Bromate?

Bromate is one of the principal by-products of the use of ozone to treat source water containing bromide. Ozonation is one of the treatment processes used at the surface water treatment plant.

### How much Bromate is in our water?

The Water Authority monitors monthly for bromide in the source water and for bromate in the finished water. The chart below shows results from January through September 2011. The Water Authority did not operate the surface water treatment plant in October 2011. Even with varying levels of bromide in the source water, no bromate was produced at the surface water treatment plant.

2011 Surface Water Treatment Plant  
Bromide and Bromate Monitoring Results



Bromate was not detected in the finished water samples at the surface water treatment plant in 2011.

## Results of Monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System

USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected and how they must be analyzed. The table below shows only the substances found in the most recent compliance monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System (EPTDS). For a list of regulated substances that were not detected, visit: [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

Substance	Sample Collection Years	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Source	Health Effects Language
<b>Metals</b>								
Arsenic	2011	Zero PPB	4 PPB	8 PPB	10 PPB	Zero PPB	Erosion of natural volcanic deposits.	See map on page 3.
Barium	2011	Zero PPM	Zero PPM	0.2 PPM	2 PPM	2 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
Chromium	2011	Zero PPB	1 PPB	6 PPB	100 PPB	100 PPB	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Minerals</b>								
Fluoride	2011	0.5 PPM	0.7 PPM	1.3 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Nutrients</b>								
Nitrate-Nitrite as N	2011	Zero PPM	0.5 PPM	3 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Radionuclides</b>								
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	2009-2011	Zero pCi/L	0.9 pCi/L	3.8 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	Zero pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
Uranium	2009-2011	Zero PPB	4 PPB	9 PPB	30 PPB	Zero PPB	Erosion of natural deposits.	Not Applicable
<b>Disinfectants</b>								
Chlorine	2011	Zero PPM	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	TT = Maintain required chlorine level or restore within 4 hours.	Not Applicable	Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite).	Not Applicable
				TT met at 100% of sites.				

Results of

# Distribution System Monitoring at Customer Taps

USEPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. USEPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected and how they must be analyzed. **The table below shows the substances found in compliance monitoring at customer taps throughout the distribution system.**

Substance Detected	Acceptable Level	DETAILED INFORMATION						
		Source	Year of Samples	Minimum Detected	Average Detected	Maximum Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level (or equivalent)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (or equivalent)
<b>Microbiological</b>								
<b>Total Coliform</b>	Yes	Coliforms are bacteria that are normally present in the environment.	2011	-	-	1 of 249 samples or 0.4% of samples taken in a month had detectable total coliform bacteria. No total coliform bacteria were detected in any repeat sample at any location.	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5.0% or more of samples in any month.	0% of samples with detectable coliform bacteria.
<b>Disinfectants</b>								
<b>Chlorine</b>	Yes	Disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite).	2011	0.3 PPM	0.8 PPM	1.9 PPM	4 PPM (MRDL)	4 PPM (MRDLG)
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)*</b>	Yes	By-product of chlorination.	2011	4 PPB	19 PPB	40 PPB	80 PPB	Not Applicable
<i>Trihalomethane Compounds</i>								
Dibromochloromethane				1 PPB	6 PPB	11 PPB	Not Applicable	60 PPB
Bromoform				1 PPB	3 PPB	8 PPB	Not Applicable	Zero PPB
Bromodichloromethane				Zero PPB	5 PPB	15 PPB	Not Applicable	Zero PPB
Chloroform				Zero PPB	4 PPB	14 PPB	Not Applicable	70 PPB
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)**</b>	Yes	By-product of chlorination.	2011	1 PPB	7 PPB	14 PPB	60 PPB	Not Applicable
<i>Haloacetic Acid Compounds</i>								
Monochloroacetic acid				Zero PPB	Zero PPB	1 PPB	Not Applicable	70 PPB
Dichloroacetic acid				Zero PPB	2 PPB	6 PPB	Not Applicable	Zero PPB
Trichloroacetic acid				Zero PPB	1 PPB	4 PPB	Not Applicable	20 PPB
Monobromoacetic acid				Zero PPB	1 PPB	2 PPB	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Dibromoacetic acid				1 PPB	2 PPB	3 PPB	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>								
<b>Zones 1-19 (50 sites)</b>								
Copper	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing.	2009	0.13 PPM	Zero	0.16 PPM	1.3 PPM	1.3 PPM
Lead				1 PPB	Zero	2 PPB	15 PPB	Zero PPB
<b>North West Service Area*** (30 sites)</b>								
Copper				0.09 PPM	Zero	0.21 PPM	1.3 PPM	1.3 PPM
Lead				2 PPB	Zero	7 PPB	15 PPB	Zero PPB

\*TTHMs are the sum of the concentrations of the trihalomethane compounds.

\*\*HAA5s are the sum of the concentrations of the haloacetic acid compounds.

\*\*\*The Water Authority acquired New Mexico Utilities, Inc., in 2009, and named it the North West Service Area.

## Lead in Drinking Water

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. The Water Authority 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to contact a private laboratory 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>.

## Sodium in Drinking Water

Sodium levels for all distribution zones range from 22 to 88 PPM. The system-wide average is 33 PPM. For more information on variation of sodium and other substances, visit [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).

## Important Definitions for Reviewing the Tables

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The Action Level is compared to the concentration detected in the 90th percentile sample.

**Detected:** The concentration of a substance measured at or above the USEPA specified Method Detection Limit.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**MFL =** Million Fibers per Liter

**ND (<1 PPB):** Not Detected at the Method Detection Limit specified in parentheses.

**Parts Per Billion = PPB** To illustrate, one PPB in a 660,000 gallon Olympic-size swimming pool is 1/2 teaspoon.

**Parts Per Million = PPM** To illustrate, one PPM in a 660,000 gallon Olympic-size swimming pool is 2 1/2 liters.

**picoCuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

# Compliance with Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level

When rocks, minerals, and soil erode, they release naturally occurring arsenic into ground water. Arsenic occurs in varying amounts in ground water throughout Albuquerque. San Juan-Chama surface water has very low levels of arsenic.

The Water Authority maintains compliance with the 10 Parts Per Billion (PPB) MCL for arsenic by:

- Selectively pumping wells,
- Using pipelines and pump stations to move low arsenic well water to other parts of the system,
- Treating higher arsenic well water at the Arsenic Removal Demonstration Plant and two other plants on the West Side, and
- Distributing very low arsenic drinking water from the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project.

Arsenic compliance monitoring results for the most recent NMED monitoring in 2011 by Distribution Zone are shown on the map.

For information on water quality in your Distribution Zone, visit our web site at [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org) or call the Water Quality Information Line at 857-8260.

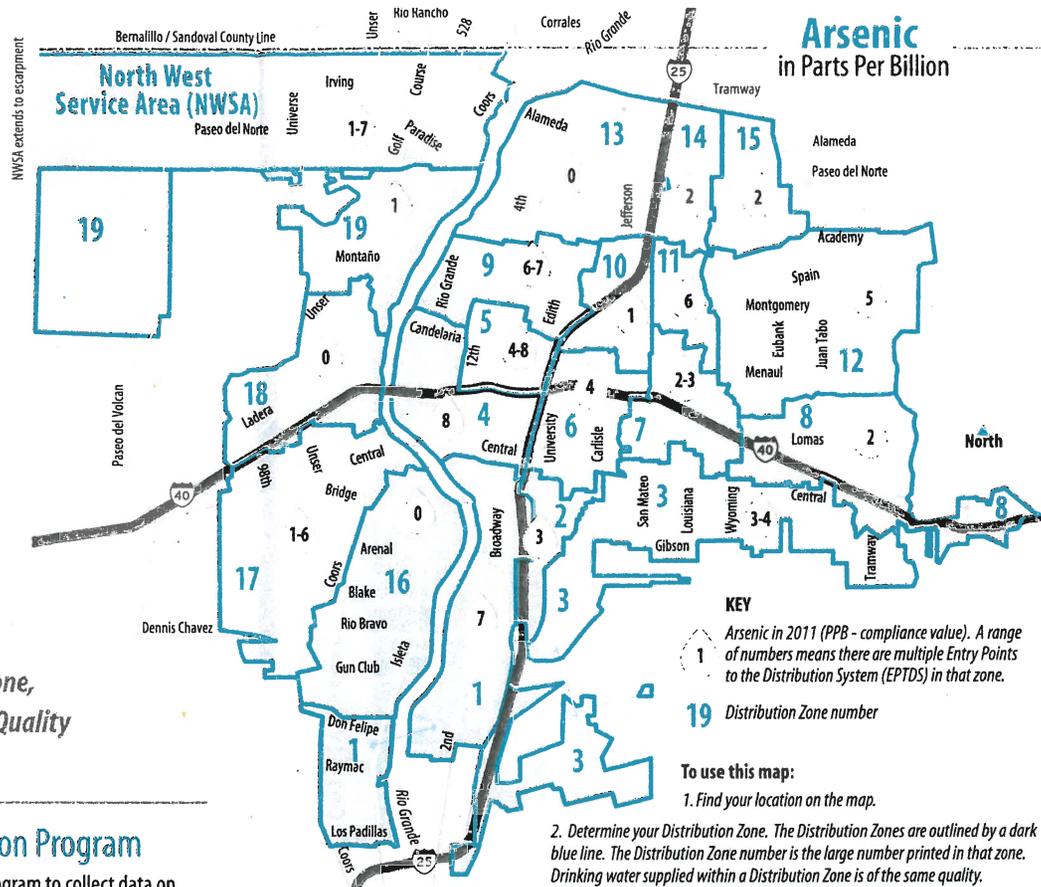
## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Program

USEPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) program to collect data on substances that are not already regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Every five years USEPA reviews the list of contaminants. Results from the most recent UCMR cycle showed that none of the contaminants were detected in the Water Authority locations (EPTDS and the distribution system).

### Unregulated substances monitored but not detected (UCMR Minimum Reporting Level in parentheses)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1,3-dinitrobenzene (0.8 PPB)                     | Dimethoate (0.7 PPB)                            |
| 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromobiphenyl (0.7 PPB)       | Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (1 PPB) |
| 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromobiphenyl ether (0.8 PPB) | Metolachlor (1 PPB)                             |
| 2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (0.9 PPB)   | Metolachlor ESA (1 PPB)                         |
| 2,2',4,4',6-pentabromodiphenyl ether (0.5 PPB)   | Metolachlor OA (2 PPB)                          |
| 2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (0.3 PPB)     | N-nitrosodiethylamine (0.005 PPB)               |
| 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (0.8 PPB)                  | N-nitrosodimethylamine (0.002 PPB)              |
| Acetochlor (2 PPB)                               | N-nitrosodi-n-butylamine (0.004 PPB)            |
| Acetochlor ethanesulfonic acid (ESA) (1 PPB)     | N-nitrosodi-n-propylamine (0.007 PPB)           |
| Acetochlor oxanilic acid (OA) (2 PPB)            | N-nitrosomethylethylamine (0.003 PPB)           |
| Alachlor (2 PPB)                                 | N-nitrosopyrrolidine (0.002 PPB)                |
| Alachlor ESA (1 PPB)                             | Terbufos Sulfone (0.4 PPB)                      |
| Alachlor OA (2 PPB)                              |   |

For a list of 63 regulated substances that were not detected, visit: [www.abcwua.org](http://www.abcwua.org).



**KEY**  
 1 Arsenic in 2011 (PPB - compliance value). A range of numbers means there are multiple Entry Points to the Distribution System (EPTDS) in that zone.  
 19 Distribution Zone number

**To use this map:**  
 1. Find your location on the map.  
 2. Determine your Distribution Zone. The Distribution Zones are outlined by a dark blue line. The Distribution Zone number is the large number printed in that zone. Drinking water supplied within a Distribution Zone is of the same quality.  
 3. The number in the water drop is the amount of arsenic in the compliance sample collected by NMED in 2011 at the EPTDS for your Distribution Zone. If a range of numbers is given for a Distribution Zone, there are multiple EPTDS to that Distribution Zone.

### USEPA ARSENIC HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE:

**For water containing greater than 5 PPB of arsenic and up to and including 10 PPB of arsenic:**  
 While your drinking water meets USEPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a metal known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### USEPA SPECIAL NOTICE FOR IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.