



2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PWS #063500120. Released July 1, 2021

ABSTRACT

The CCR is the centerpiece of public's right-to-know in Safe Drinking Water Act. Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2020. This Report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

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2020 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

PWS ID# 063500120

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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?

Groundwater from the Rio Grande Alluvial aquifer is primary source of drinking water for the Santo Domingo Pueblo. A second well was drilled in 2013 and connected to one pumphouse for treatment and distribution. the disinfectant sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) is injected into the water prior to the water entering the distribution system and for your consumption.

Source Water Assessment and its availability

In 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act authorize a Source Water Assessment (SWA) program to determine the susceptibility of a public drinking water supply to contamination. Source of contaminants regulated by Safe Drinking Water Act are required to be inventoried during the assessment process. The EPA Region 6 Source Water Protection Branch in cooperation with the utility staff at the Pueblo of Santo Domingo conducted this assessment in January 2010.

Based on the following factors, your water system was determined to have a **High** susceptibility to

contamination. The physical integrity of the well, the characteristics of the contaminants inventoried and the likelihood of those contaminants to reach the source of the drinking water supply all impact the susceptibility of the sources to contamination. Our aquifer is considered highly susceptible to contamination because it is composed of unconsolidated sand and gravel, buried alluvial valleys and alluvial terraces. The SWA report is available at the utility office for your review. Please contact us at 505-465-0055 for more information on the assessment.

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** are, for example viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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** 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 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, 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 Information or concerns about your water system contact: Santo Domingo Tribal Utilities at 505-465-0055

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.

Significant Deficiencies

During August 2020, 1 sample tested positive for total coliform bacteria and negative for E.coli bacteria. Additional samples were taken at multiple sites including source wells. A second sample tested positive for total coliform at original location. A Level 1 Assessment was conducted by the water system to identify potential contributing issues, and identified issues were corrected. A final report was submitted to EPA and system was returned to compliance in September 2020.

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. Santo Domingo Pueblo 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>.

2020 Water Quality Data Tables

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 these tables are 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.

Detected Regulated Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected 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	1.24	0.34	1.24	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	No Goal for Total	60	1.38	1.38	1.38	2020	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No Goal for Total	80	12.8	12.8	12.8	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.019	0.019	0.019	2015	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.55	0.55	0.55	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Bacteriological Contaminants								
Total Coliform bacteria	0	1*	2* (August 2020)	-	-	2020	No	Naturally present in the environment
<p>*Any total coliform sample detected requires additional samples to be collected and analyzed for both total coliform and Ecoli bacteria. During August 2020, two samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria and negative for Ecoli bacteria. Additional samples were collected at multiple sites. A level 1 Assessment was conducted by the water system to identify any potential contributing issues, and identified issues were corrected. In addition, we were required to take corrective action(s) and we assessed four areas of our distribution and corrected any deficiencies. A final report was submitted to EPA and the system was returned to compliance on 9/15/2020.</p> <p>Level 1 Assessment and Sanitary Defects Corrections</p> <p>Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.</p>								

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	3.41	3.41	3.41	2018	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	ND	ND	ND	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	0	30	3.6	3.6	3.6	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	ALG	AL	90 th Percentile	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Lead and Copper (Inorganic Contaminants)								
Copper – 90 % (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.12	2020	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead – 90 % (ppb)	0	15	3.8	2020	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
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)
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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	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	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
ALG	Action Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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	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	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
90 th Percentile	A value at which 90% of all samples collected tested at or below this value.

For more information please contact:

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Diagram of our Public Drinking Water System:

