2014 Consumer Confidence Report for Cedar Creek Water Cooperative

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in past years, your tap water met all U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NM State drinking water health standards. Cedar Creek vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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?

Your water comes from two wells. Well Number 1, along Cedar Creek Road, is 460 feet deep and Well Number 2, along Mimbres Road, is 560 feet deep. These ground wells draw water from the Santa Fe Group Aquifer. Water from these sources is pumped to a holding tank behind the pump house, clorinated and then pumped to the water distribution system. Water from these sources is routinely monitored for contaminants.

Source water assessment and its availability

The New Mexico Environmental Department Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) complies with the requirements as prescribed in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The NMED-DWB conducted a Source Water Assessment of the Cedar Creek Water Coop. in accordance with an EPA approved Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) in December of 2012 and published the results in a Susceptibility Report. The Susceptibility Analysis of the Coop. indicates that the Coop's water system is well maintained and operated and that the sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on the construction, hydrogeologic settings and system operation management. The susceptibility rank of our system is HIGH.

Copies of the Susceptibility Report may be requested from the NMED Drinking Water Bureau by calling 1-877-654-8720 or visiting or contacting NMED at 1190 St. Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469. You may also e-mail them at mail.swapp@nmenv.state.nm.us. The NMED DWB may charge a nominal fee for paper copies. You may also view a copy of the report by contacting Don DeMart at 771-1325.

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. Some of these contaminants

may be: 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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?

The Cooperative is a community water association that is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership. Involvement of the membership is sincerely desired and encouraged. Call one of the Board members listed here for more information: Roger Likewise, 771-2934; Phil Howard, 771-2409; Don DeMart, 771-1325; Bob Gajkowski, 771-0253; or Mike Griego, 301-5879.

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 microorganisims 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? In Cedar Creek we average from 85 to 200 gallons per day per connection depending on the time of year, so we are well below the national average which is good. Even so, we still must strive to conserve. 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 shorter 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 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.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary. Adjust frequency for drip systems according to the time of year. 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..
- 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 1000 gallons a month.
- 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/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 to a public sanitation system.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your area and volunteer to help. If there are none active, consider starting one. Use the EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your area, 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.

Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations

NONE

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. Cedar Creek Water Cooperative 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.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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.

Contaminants	MCGL or MRDLG	MCL TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Produects								
(There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl_2) (ppm)	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.2	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Floride (ppm)	4	4	0.61	0.56	0.61	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2	2	2	2013	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.44	0.3	0.44	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.5	0	4.5	2011	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.11	0	0.11	2011	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminants	MCGL or MRDLG	MCL TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	4	3.6	2.4	3.6	2011	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	4	4	4	2011	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.28	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood presertatives
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	12	2014	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCGL or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
None					

Abreviations & Definitions

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ug/L	ug/L: Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - or one ounce in 7, 350 gallons
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (μg/L) - or one ounce in 7, 350, 000 gallons
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**
NCLG	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 to which a water system must follow.
ALG	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.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exceptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain cinditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant 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 that is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For More Information please contact:

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