

2003 Annual Water Quality Report

Pueblo Del Sol Water Company

PWSID # 02-044

The United States enjoys one of the best supplies of drinking water in the world. Nevertheless, many of us who once gave little or no thought to the water that comes from our taps are now asking questions: How safe is my drinking water? Where does my drinking water come from, and how is it treated? What can I do to help protect my drinking water?

In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply and protecting sources of drinking water. SDWA is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its state partners. Since 1999, water suppliers have been required to provide annual Consumer Confidence Reports to their customers. This report provides the answers to these and other frequently asked questions.

Pueblo Del Sol Water Company has been providing clean water to the City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County since 1972, helping to keep you and your family healthy- We take this mission very seriously. As shown in this annual report covering the year 2003, the water we delivered surpassed the strict regulations of the State of Arizona and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2003, our water department distributed 446,682,103 gallons of water to our customers. Our water source is groundwater pumped by four wells. We also utilize two reservoirs.

Pueblo Del Sol Water Company treats your water using disinfection to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the water source. Your water is in compliance and accordance with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Rules and Regulations.

2003 was a busy year for Pueblo Del Sol Water Company. We have completed and are in full operations of an additional well and pump station. To further enhance our service to you the customer, and future demands we have also completed an additional one million gallon storage tank. This project was completed in January 2004.

The cost of drinking water is rising as we meet the needs of aging infrastructure, comply with public health standards, and expand service areas. These increasing costs may cause us to raise your rates. However, despite rate increases, water is still a bargain.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Richard Darling or Ann Zilinski by calling 520-458-3742 or by writing to this address: 4226 Avenida Cochise, Suite 13, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

2003 Monitoring Results for Contaminants in Drinking Water

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/CDC 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).

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA's Limits	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Violation (Yes/No)	Year* Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform Bacteria	Pos/neg	0	1 positive monthly sample	1. Oct	NA	NO	2003	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	0	15	3.1 +/- 0.8	3.0 +/- 0.8	NO	2001	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.069	0.047 - 0.069	NO	2001	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	ppb	100	100	40	2.0 40	NO	2003	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.21 (90 th percentile) All 30 sites below AL	0.028 - 0.34	NO	2000	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	0	15 = AL	ND (90 th percentile) All 30 sites below AL	ND - 3.4	NO	2000	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.75	0.4 - 0.75	NO	2003	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0	80	0.6 Annual Average	ND - 14.0	NO	2002	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Notes:

*The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

Variances and Exemptions:

Under a waiver granted May 1, 1998, by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, our system does not have to monitor for the following contaminants, due to testing over a three year period indicated these substances do not occur in our source water.

1,2 dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)	Glyphosate
2,4-D	Alachlor (Lasso)
Atrazine	Benzo(A)PyreneDalapon
Methoxychlor	Dalapon
Heptachlor epoxide	Di(2-ethylexyl)phthalate
Picloram	Diquat
Toxaphene	Endrin
Simazine	Heptachlor
2,4,5-TP (silvex)	Pentachlorophenol

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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 EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Definitions

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 Goal or 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

Action Level (or AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Variance: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Exemption: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity.

NA: Not applicable.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).

pCi/L (or picocuries per liter): a measure of radioactivity.

SU: standard unit

NP: Not detectable at testing limits

PPM (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Non-Regulated Substances: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. All results are from testing completed during the 2002 year.

Substance	Unit	Average Detected	Range
Alkalinity	ppm	180	All 3 results 180
Dibromochloromethane	ppb	3.15	ND - 6.3
Bromoform	ppb	3.85	ND - 7.7
Calcium	ppm	56	54 - 59
Chloride	ppm	4.17	3.3 - 5
Hardness	ppm	140	130 - 150
Magnesium	ppm	9.1	7.9 - 10
pH	su	7.57	7.54 - 7.65
Sodium	ppm	9.77	8.1 - 12
Sulfate	ppm	8.7	7.8 - 9.7
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	216.57	210 - 220
Zinc	ppm	0.02	ND - 0.061