

# **Santa Rosa Water System Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010, Published in 2011**

## **Spanish (Español)**

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

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water 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. 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?**

Water for the Santa Rosa Water System comes from two ground water wells located near Colonias, approximately 15 miles northwest of town. The wells are 525 feet deep and water is drawn from the San Andres Limestone formation.

## **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. It also may pick up the following substances that result 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 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; 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.

**Source water assessment and its availability**

The Santa Rosa Water System is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings, and system operations and management. In December 2002 the New Mexico Environment Department – Drinking Water Bureau issued a Source Water Assessment & Protection Program (SWAPP) report for the Santa Rosa Water System. Findings of the SWAPP report indicate that the source susceptibility rank of the entire water system is **Moderate**. Please contact the Santa Rosa Water System to discuss the findings of the SWAPP report.

Table 7 <sup>1</sup> SOURCE SUSCEPTIBILITY RANKING					
SOURCE NAME	Sensitivity Rank	Vulnerability Rank	Susceptibility Rank	Operational Exceptions	Final Rank
COLONIAS WELL #2	Moderately Low	Low	Moderately Low	- Land Use	Moderate
COLONIAS WELL#3	Moderately Low	Low	Moderately Low	- Land Use	Moderate

<sup>1</sup>New Mexico Environment Department, 2002. *Source Water Assessment of Santa Rosa Water System, Public Water System # 15010*, December 2002.

**How can I get involved?**

Please contact the Santa Rosa Water System to obtain information concerning the times/locations of upcoming water board and/or city council meetings.

**Monitoring and reporting of significant deficiencies**

On September 22, 2010 the New Mexico Environment Department conducted a Sanitary Survey for the Santa Rosa Water System. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the adequacy of the water system’s sources, treatment, storage, distribution network, operation and maintenance, and overall management for reliably producing and distributing safe drinking water. During the course of this survey, the following four significant deficiencies were discovered. All of the significant deficiencies have been corrected.

- **1a) Storage Tank #2 (East) requires security to protect the facility from unauthorized access. – Notification of correction provided to Drinking Water Bureau March 14, 2011.**
- **2a) Well #2 lacks a proper well vent. The vent currently on the well requires a down-turned vent with the vent opening covered by 24-mesh, corrosion resistant screen. The vent should extend to at least 12 to 18 inches above the ground surface. – Notification of correction provided to the Drinking Water Bureau on November 17, 2010.**
- **3a) Storage Tank #3 (West) lacks a proper overflow outlet. The overflow outlet should terminate 12 to 18 inches above the ground surface, be covered by an acceptable flap or screened with 24-mesh, corrosion resistant screen, and discharge on to a splash pad. - Notification of correction provided to the Drinking Water Bureau on November 17, 2010.**
- **4a) An entry point sampling tap that allows for the collection of a sample of water blended from all wells must be installed for the system between the wells and the first distribution (e.g., first consumers). (Due to the presence of distribution on the Santa Rosa Water Supply system in pre-treatment locations, an entry point at this location will be “more representative of each source” utilized by the first consumers than the current entry point that is located after treatment.) - Notification of correction provided to the Dinking Water Bureau on March 11, 2011.**

**For more information please contact:**

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## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm) *See Footnote	4	4	0.49	0.25	0.71	2010	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	5.7	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.06	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	NA		2009	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	12.05	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.23	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.28	NA		2010	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	1.79	NA		2005	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.35	NA		2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	2	NA		2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits

\* Customers on transmission line from Colonias Well Field, prior to west tank, are receiving non chlorinated water.

## Water Quality Data Table (cont.)

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Additional Contaminants

In an effort to ensure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>State MCL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Explanation and Comment</u>
Nickel	NA	2.9 ppb	No	

### Definitions

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/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.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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.

## Definitions (cont.)

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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

### Additional Information for Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water during showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state Radon Program or call U.S. EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

### 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. Santa Rosa Water Supply 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>.

### **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? 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 short 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 your 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 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- 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 1,000 gallons a month.
- 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.
- 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](http://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 water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, 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.