



2022
Annual
Water Quality
Report

**Lee Hammond Water
Users Cooperative Association**

PWS ID# NM3500624

Quality Water

What an great year! We had some ups and downs and a boil water advisory, but we have continued to work hard to provide you with clean and safe drinking water.

Lee Hammond Water is 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 the results of all required water testing performed last year. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our water system in more detail, I encourage you to email me at alee@leehammond.org, or call the office at 505-632-2987, and ask for Aaron. Aaron Lee, General Manager, Lee Hammond Water Users

Where does my water come from?

Lee Hammond's primary water source is the San Juan River. We also have the ability in an emergency situation to purchase water from the City of Bloomfield who also gets its water from the San Juan River. However, we have not received any water from the city in the last 20 years. After pumping from the river to our raw water pond, we add aluminum sulfate and a cationic polymer to the water before it goes through our conventional mixed media filtration system. It is then chlorinated and then pumped to our 500,000 gallon Mangum Tank, whereby it is distributed through pipes, pump stations, and possibly other tanks to your residence or business.

Source Water Assessment

Surface waters are susceptible to contamination. Things like inadequate or failing septic systems, agricultural runoff, bridges, leaks from storage tanks or pipelines are all sources of possible contamination. If customers would like more information about the source water assessment they can contact David Torres at David.Torres@env.nm.gov or 505-259-5048.

Questions

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water or your water bill, please call Lee Hammond Water at 505-632-2987.

Substances that could be in 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, 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 stormwater 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 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; 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 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."

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 for more information.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Lee/Hammond Water Treatment Plant 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>.

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).

Test Results

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 tables below list 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 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 these tables 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 tables.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect 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)								
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	22	NA	NA	2022	No	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.076	NA	NA	2022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0	NA	NA	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from steel and pulp mills
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.19	NA	NA	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0	NA	NA	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100	NA	NA	2022	No	Soil runoff
99% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .21. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	1.4	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.09	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
Dalapon	200	200	0.57	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way



Contaminants	MCL G or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect 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	0.9	.4	0.9	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	58	24	58.2	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	91	34.3	91	2022	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
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	.12	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.6	2022	0	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)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.



Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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 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

Our water system recently violated a couple of drinking water regulations. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to submit turbidity data and chlorine levels to the State on a monthly basis on or before the deadline of the tenth of each month. This requirement was not met for the month of November 2022.

Monitoring and reporting turbidity and chlorine levels in your water are important in ensuring safe water to all our customers. Chlorine is added to the water to inactivate bacteria that may be present. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

Tests taken during this time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the drinking water system during this period.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.

What is being done?

We submitted a monthly operating report after the deadline. The report has been submitted and accepted by NMED. The Lee Hammond treatment plant produced water in compliance with turbidity and disinfection requirements during the month of November.



We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 1st quarter of 2022 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for disinfection byproducts (Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

Table 1

Contaminants	Sample Name (Address)	Sampling Frequency	Compliance Period
Total Haloacetic Acids & Total Trihalomethanes	HAA5-1 120 RD 5010	Quarterly	1Q2022
Total Haloacetic Acids & Total Trihalomethanes	TTHM-1 2 RD 5821	Quarterly	1Q2022

What should you do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What happened and what is being done?

We have already resolved the problem by collecting our 2nd quarter 2022 compliance sample on 6/7/2022.

On August 4th, 2022 we had a water sample test positive for E. coli. This was found on the east side of Hwy 550 on Sullivan Road(Road 4990). We notified the public on August 5th. We had no further positive tests and the system was cleared by the NM Environmental Department on August 17, 2022.

If you have any questions about this report or about your water, please call me at 505-632-2987.



Aaron K Lee, General Manager

