



**2023**  
**Annual**  
**Water Quality**  
**Report**

**Lee Hammond Water  
Users Cooperative Association**

**PWS ID# NM3500624**

## Quality Water

What a great year! 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@lee Hammond.org](mailto:alee@lee Hammond.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](mailto: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](http://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 |             |           |   |
| <b>Organic Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)   | NA            | TT               | 21                   | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Naturally present in the environment  |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| Barium (ppm)   | 2             | 2                | .085                 | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Chromium (ppb)   | 100           | 100              | 0                    | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from steel and pulp mills  |
| Fluoride (ppm)   | 4             | 4                | 0.2                  | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate (ppm)  | 10            | 10               | 0                    | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits                               |
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| Turbidity (NTU)  | NA            | 0.3              | 100                  | NA    | NA   | 2023        | No        | Soil runoff   |
| 100% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .25. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state. |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| 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   |
| <b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>  |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |   |
| Dalapon  | 200           | 200              | 0                    | NA    | NA   | 2023        | 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                   |             |  |   |
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection 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)  | 4              | 4                | 0.9                  | .3          | 1.7                    | 2023        | No   | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)   | NA             | 60               | 39                   | 26.5        | 51                     | 2023        | No   | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)   | NA             | 80               | 67                   | 8.65        | 89.9                   | 2023        | No   | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Contaminants  | MCLG           | AL               | Your Water           | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL  | Typical Source   |   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |                |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| 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.   |
| Variances and Exemptions             | Variances 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   |

In August of 2023 we received a Notice of Violation and we issued a Public Notice for failing to report that we had corrected 3 issues identified by our routine May 2023 sanitary survey. The issues were corrected within two weeks of identification, which is well within the requirements. However, I failed to report to the state that they were corrected in the time frame required. We have adjusted some checks to make sure that we get our paperwork done within the required time in the future.

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



Aaron K Lee, General Manager

