

## City of Alamogordo 2014 Water Quality Report

Dear Customer:

This report has been prepared to inform our customers of the quality of their drinking water.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en español, favor de llamar al TEL. 800-460-6565 par hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Last year as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of New Mexico drinking water health standards.

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 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

The City's water comes from several sources, including springs and stream diversions in the Fresnal and La Luz Canyon Systems, springs in the Alamo Canyon System, Bonito Lake and from wells located both northeast and south of the Alamogordo City Limits.

The Susceptibility Analysis of the Alamogordo Domestic water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated, and the sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on an evaluation of the available

information. The susceptibility ranking of the entire water system is Moderate. A copy of the entire analysis may be downloaded at: [www.ci.alamogordo.nm.us](http://www.ci.alamogordo.nm.us)



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

In order to insure 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.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation. On February 20, 2015 we became aware that our system recently failed to collect monitoring samples required by the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule during the correct month of the quarter as required. The samples for the 4th quarter 2013 (November) were collected in December 2013 and 2nd quarter 2014 (May) were collected in June 2014 compliance cycles.

Public input concerning the City of Alamogordo water system may be made at regularly scheduled meetings, held at 7:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the City Hall located at 1376 E. Ninth Street. You may also contact the Water Treatment Division at (575) 437-5991 with any concerns or questions you may have.

Website: [www.ci.alamogordo.nm.us](http://www.ci.alamogordo.nm.us)

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants we detected that are applicable for the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to change.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions and Abbreviations

**ug/L** : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water, **ppm**: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L), **ppb**: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) **pCi/L**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity), **MFL**: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration, **ND**: Not detected, **MCLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. **MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **AL**: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products

Analyte Name	Sample Year	MCL	Your Water	Range Detected	MCLG	Violation	Typical Sources
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2014	60	17	4.8 - 17	N/A	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2014	80	64	17 - 64	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Inorganic Contaminants

Analyte Name	Sample Year	MCL	Your Water	Range Detected	MCLG	Violation	Typical Sources
Arsenic (ppb)	2013	10	1	ND - 1	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) (ppm)	2014	10	3.5	ND - 3.5	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2014	2	0.033	0.012 - 0.033	2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	4	0.31	0.14 - 0.31	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2014	50	5.6	ND - 5.6	50	No	Discharge from mines, erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos (MFL)	2014	7	0.2	0.2	7	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits

### Radioactive Contaminants

Analyte Name	Sample Year	MCL	Your Water	Range Detected	MCLG	Violation	Typical Sources
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	2013	5	0.13	0.13	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	2013	15	3.5	3.5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	2013	30	4	4	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Lead and Copper (Regulated at the Customer's Plumbing)

Analyte Name	Sample Year	AL	Your Water	# of Samples Exceeding AL	MCLG	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (action level at consumer taps) (ppb)	2012	15	7.1	2	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (action level at consumer taps) (ppm)	2012	1.3	0.58	1	1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives, corrosion of household plumbing systems

### 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. Alamogordo Domestic Water System 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>.