



# 2006 WATER REPORT

## VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS

### THE VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS' 2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT

WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

## ORDINANCE PROHIBITS WATER WASTE

The Los Lunas Village Council has adopted the policy that "wasted water unnecessarily depletes the water supply, results in the loss of a valuable natural resource, causes soil erosion, degrades streets and may create public safety hazards."

Water waste is now prohibited in the Village of Los Lunas as a condition of receiving service from the municipal water utility. In addition, water waste within the municipal limits is prohibited even if water is not provided by the municipal water utility.



Water waste means any water, other than natural precipitation, that flows from a property to the public right-of-way or adjacent private property. Water waste is a non-beneficial use of water. Among the non-beneficial uses of water are:

- Washing vehicles, equipment or hard surfaces such as driveways when water is applied in sufficient quantity to result in excess flow from that surface onto adjacent property to the public right-of-way;

- Landscape water applied in such a manner that it overflows the landscaped area being watered and runs onto adjacent property or public right-of-way;

- Landscape water which leaves a sprinkler, sprinkler system, or other application device in such a manner as to spray onto adjacent property or public right-of-way; and

- Using water to clean parking lots unless it is applied to prevent or abate health, safety or accident hazards when alternate methods are not available.

The ordinance says that "any responsible party who violates any provisions of the ordinance shall be subject to progressively higher penalty fees until the violation ceases, an extension of time for corrective measures is granted, or an appeal is initiated in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance."

The first observed violation calls for a warning with no penalty fee; the second observed violation calls for a penalty of \$50; and the third observed violation and all subsequent violations is a \$100 fine.

See the back page for more information about the Water Waste ordinance.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua para beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Una traduccion de este folleto en espanol es obtenible en la sala de sesiones de la municipalidad del Pueblo de Los Lunas en Don Pasqual y Main Street.*



The Village Council encourages citizens of Los Lunas and interested persons to attend and participate in the community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular council meetings occur approximately every two weeks on Thursdays at 6 PM at the Administration Building lo-

### NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT —

Los Lunas Water Department Attn: Betty Behrend  
P.O. Box 1209 660 Main Street NW  
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031-1209  
Phone 505 839-3843 Fax 505 352-3580  
E-mail: behrendb@loslunasnm.gov

cated at the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Water conservation in New Mexico should always be an important part of daily life. We must always be vigilant about the use of water in our homes, businesses and community and treat it as precious commodity.

## VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS

Don Pasqual & Main Street  
P.O. Box 1209  
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031

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This report was printed and distributed in June, 2007

# THE WATER WE DRINK IN LOS LUNAS

## 2006 VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS WATER SUMMARY

### WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE



The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year of this report (2005). The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data pre-

sented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	MCL,	YOUR	RANGE		SAMPLE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
	OR	TT, OR		LOW	HIGH			
	MRDLG	MRDL	WATER			DATE		
<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 C12) (ppm)	4	4	0.27	0.15	0.51	2005	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	0.7	0.2	0.7	2005	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
(TTHMs) Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	2.2	1.0	2.2	2005	No	By-product of drinking water disinfectant
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	50	18	12	18	2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	4	ND	4	2004	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.05	0.129	1.05	2002	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	ND	0.28	2005	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	2	ND		2005	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.58	1.07	2.58	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.21	ND	0.21	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	9	6	9	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Copper action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.08	2005	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

## UNITS DESCRIPTION:

- 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 (ug/L)
- pCi/L — picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- positive samples/month — number of samples taken monthly found to be positive.
- NA — not applicable
- ND — not detected
- NR — monitoring not required, but recommended

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARSENIC

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

# Is My Water Safe?

Last year, the Village of Los Lunas conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 10 of those contaminants, and found only one at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards.



As stated in the notice that went out to Village of Los Lunas customers in January it was found during the investigation that there had been a water break at the

## ***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).

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,

site where the sample was taken which may have caused the presence of coliform bacteria. (for more information see the section labeled Violations at the bottom of this column.)

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 can come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure 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 contaminant limits in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS**

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: 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: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

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: 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: Monitored Not Regulated.

MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

## ***Violations and Exceedances***

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Five routine samples and three repeat samples were taken the week of December 5th with two positive samples. Five more samples were taken the week of December 12th and all samples came back negative. Upon investigation it was found that there had been a water break on the property near where the samples were taken and this may have caused the presence of coliform bacteria. The five samples taken the following week came back negative.

# WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

A Source Water Assessment has been done for the Village of Los Lunas Water System and is available for review at the office of the Utility Director at the Village Administration Building, Don Pasqual and Main Street.

The Susceptibility Analysis of the Los Lunas Water System water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated. The sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings and system operations and management.

The susceptibility rank of the system is MODERATE.

Copies of the Source Water Assessment may be requested by e-mailing the Drinking Water Bureau at SWAPP@nmenv.state.nm.us or calling 505 827-7536 (toll free 1-877-654-8720).

Please include your name, address, telephone number,

## 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).

## RESULTS OF RADON MONITORING

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell which is found throughout the United States.

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 from showering, washing dishes or 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

email address and the name of the water utility.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau may charge a nominal fee for paper copies.

## More About The Water Waste Ordinance Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to properties using spray irrigation in the new Water Waste ordinance;

- Spray irrigation is allowed only from 6 pm to 10 am on all properties from April 1 through September 30;
- Shut-off nozzles are required on any hoses used for hand watering, vehicle or equipment washing or other outdoor uses;
- Additional scheduling or restrictions may be applied during a declared drought or emergency events.

Any responsible party who violates the ordinance prohibiting water waste is subject to progressively higher penalty fees until the violation ceases, an extension of time for corrective measure is granted or an appeal is initiated in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance.

**The Los Lunas Water Department  
is a member of:**

**The American Water Works Association  
New Mexico Water & Wastewater Association  
New Mexico Environmental Quality Association**

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The Village of Los Lunas is supplied by ground water pumped from the Santa Fe Group aquifer in the Albuquerque Basin by four wells located within the Village of Los Lunas.

If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy.

Fix the problem if the level of radon in your air is four picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher.

There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For more information, call Michael Taylor at the New Mexico Indoor Radon Outreach Program at 505 827-1093 or call the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the Radon Hotline, 800-SOS-RADON.

The New Mexico Indoor Radon Outreach Program provides public education about the health risk of radon gas and disseminates information on methods of mitigating radon problems.