

# Village of Los Lunas

## 2011 WATER REPORT



### Conserving Water — Important for Everyone

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water.

Small changes make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a five minute shower uses four to five gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off the water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient shower head. The shower heads can be inexpensive, easy to install, and can save up to 750 gallons of water monthly.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Water plants only when necessary.

### Village of Los Lunas: Providing Excellence in Quality and Service

The Village of Los Lunas Water Department exists to provide excellence in quality and service to village customers at a minimal cost while protecting the environment and exceeding all quality standards.

The village and its staff operate a water system consisting of three pressure zones, six steel storage tanks, four wells and 50 miles of water line.

Activities include maintenance of the water utility systems and treatment facilities, laboratory sampling, fiscal reports, video inspection of sewer mains and administration.

The Los Lunas Water Department is a member of:

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

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.

- 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 children about water conservation to ensure future generations use water wisely. Make conservation a family effort to reduce water bills.

- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**For more information contact:**  
**Village Utilities Director James Blasing**  
**Phone 505 352-7629 Fax 505 352-3580**  
**Email: [Blasingj@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:Blasingj@loslunasnm.gov)**  
**Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



### THE VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS 2011 WATER QUALITY REPORT

660 Main Street NW  
P.O. Box 1209  
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031

505 839-3840  
FAX 505 352-3580  
[www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

This report was printed  
and distributed in June, 2012

# THE WATER WE DRINK IN LOS LUNAS THE 2011 VILLAGE WATER SUMMARY WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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 this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires the village 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 the data, though representative, may be more than one year old. This table contains terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar. To help better understand these terms, the definitions are provided elsewhere in this report.



CONTAMINANTS	MCLG OR MRDLG	MCL, TT, OR MRDL	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	0.3	0.3	0.3	2011	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	0.15	NA		2011	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0.005	0.005	0.007	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	3	ND	3	2011	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.11	0.94	1.11	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.31	ND	0.31	2011	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	7.4	0.6	7.4	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.3	ND	0.3	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	9	5	9	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
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	0.66	2011	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	5.37	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

# Source Water Assessment and Its Availability

A rank of the entire Village of Los Lunas water system is moderate.

Although throughout the United States, it is common to find potential sources of contamination located atop wellheads, continued regulatory oversight, wellhead protection plans and other planning efforts continue to be the primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water.

Copies of the Village of Los Lunas Consumer Confidence 2011 Water Report may be requested by emailing Glenn DeGuzman at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) at Glenn.Deguzman@state.nm.us. Please include your name, address, contact number and state that you are requesting a copy

of the Consumer Confidence 2011 Water Report for the Village of Los Lunas.

The New Mexico Environment Department may charge a nominal fee for paper copies.

Copies of the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) may also be requested by emailing the Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) at SWAPP@nmenv.state.nm.us or by calling 505 827-7536 or toll free at 1-877-654-8720. Include your name, address, contact number, email address and state that you are requesting a copy of the SWAPP for the Village of Los Lunas water system.

The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau may charge a nominal fee for paper copies.

## 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)

NA — not applicable

ND — not detected

NR — monitoring not required, but recommended

## 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 of New Mexico or Environmental Protection Agency 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

## Is My Water Safe?

The Village of Los Lunas mayor and council are pleased to present the Village of Los Lunas Consumer Confidence 2011 Water 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. The report is a snapshot of last year's water quality.

Village staff is committed to providing this information because informed customers are the best allies.

Last year, staff conducted tests for over 80 contaminants, only detecting 11 contaminants that exceeded the allowances set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency..

## More Information About 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.

The Village of Los Lunas Water Department 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 thirty seconds to two 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>.

# 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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

These substances can include 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, 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. The Environmental Protection Agency/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).

## How Can I Get Involved?

The Mayor and Council of the Village of Los Lunas encourage public interest and participation in the community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Village Council meetings occur every two weeks on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Village Administration Building, Don Pasqual and Main Street. The public is welcome.

All meetings are advertised in the *Valencia County News-Bulletin* and on the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov). The Village of Los Lunas council and staff encourage customers to continue water conservation efforts and implement additional efforts if at all possible.

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. Water may also pick up substances such as 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, Environmental Protection Agency 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.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

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

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect our community's drinking water source in several ways.

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides as they contain hazardous chemicals that may reach the drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have a septic system, properly maintain the system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public sewer system, if available.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in our community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use the EPA's Adopt Your Watershed ([www.epa.gov/adopt/](http://www.epa.gov/adopt/)) to locate groups in or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with the 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 to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into our local water body.