

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

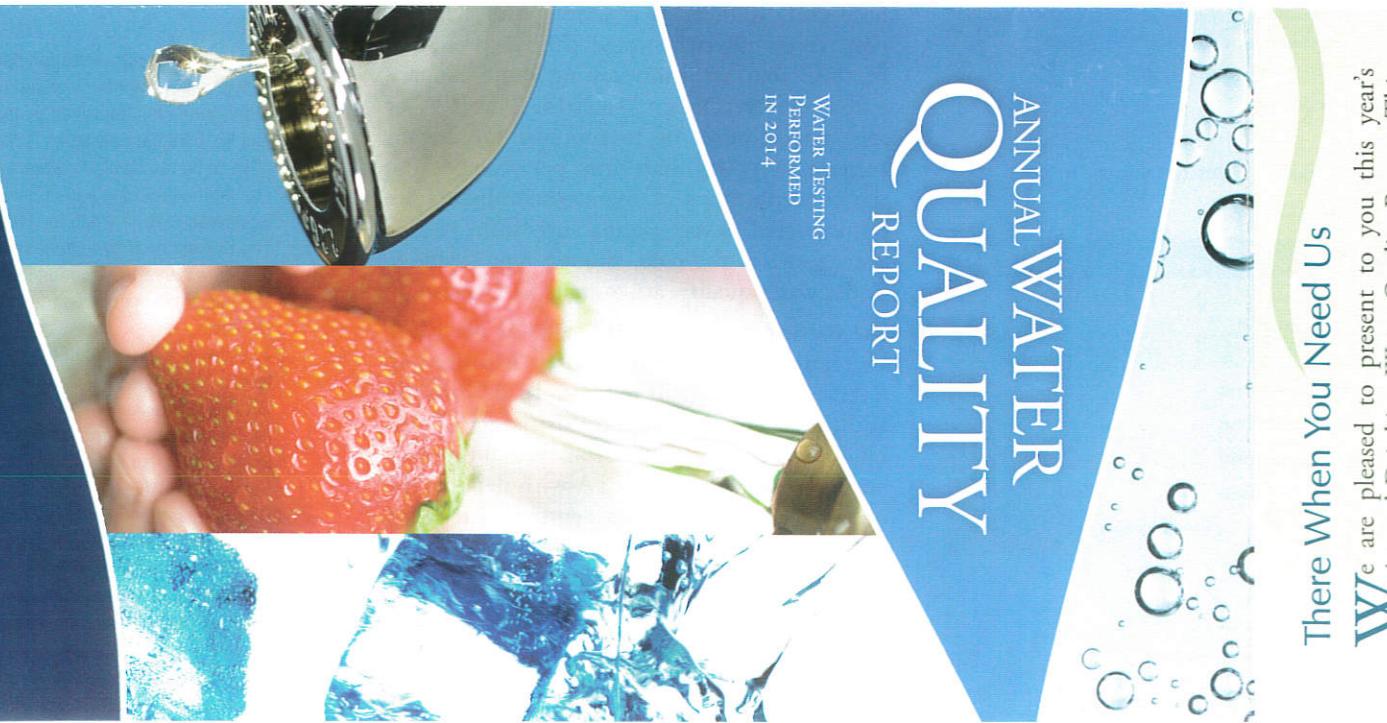
Ft Bliss Water Services
P.O. Box 6430
El Paso, TX 79906

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (915) 564-1332 564-1332.

Recycled and Recyclable
Copyright ©2015 Gemini Group LLC
All rights reserved
TX010660-1

Presented By
Ft Bliss Water Services

PWS ID#: 0710020/07100780710187



There When You Need Us

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality report. Included are details about your water source, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water quality and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets U.S. EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. U.S. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immune compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing HIV/AIDS treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. This water supply 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

Our drinking water is obtained from groundwater sources. The Hueco Mesilla Bolson Aquifer is located east and west of the Franklin mountains in far west Texas and is recognized as a major aquifer in Texas. Fort Bliss Water Services Company (FBWSC) currently owns and operates four (4) distinct Public Water Systems (PWS) within Fort Bliss.

The water distribution systems for Main Fort Bliss (TX0710020), Biggs Army Airfield (TX 0710078) and Site Monitor (TX 0710083) are self-sustaining systems, operating independently of one another. The primary water supply for these systems derives from wells located within the Fort Bliss Army Base property. Zero percent of this water is purchased from El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU). East Biggs Water System (0710187) was contracted to FBWSC in 2014 and 100% of the water for that system is purchased from EPWU.

In the event that the FBWSC water systems are incapable of providing sufficient supply, EPWU water can be accessed via emergency interconnections to the FBWSC water distribution system.

QUESTIONS?

What If I Have Any Questions Or Would Like to Become More Involved?

For information about your water quality or to find out about upcoming opportunities to participate in public meetings, please contact Robert Ortega, Utility Manager, at (915) 564-1332.

For more information about health effects of the listed constituents in the following tables, call the EPA hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

			Ft Bliss-Main Post		Biggs Army Airfield		El Paso Water Utilities		East Biggs Water System				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2014	15	0	7.4	0–7.4	7.4	0–7.4	3.7 (avg.)	0–5.5	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (ppb)	2014	6	6	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.28	0.2–0.33	NA	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2014	10	NA	5.3	2.8–5.3	5.5	0–5.5	5.6 (avg.) ¹	0–11.9 ¹	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2014	2	2	0.11	0.048–0.11	0.046	0–0.046	0.08 (avg.)	0.04–0.12	NA	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters ² (pCi/L)	2014	50	0	8.5	0–8.5	8.5	0–8.5	6.68 (avg.)	0–8.8	NA	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2014	[4]	[4]	2.20	0.78–2.20	2.20	0.75–2.20	2.7	NA–2.7	1.54	0.2–1.54	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2014	[800]	[800]	ND	NA	ND	NA	500	NA–500	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2014	1	0.8	ND	NA	ND	NA	0.72	NA–0.72	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium (ppb)	2014	100	100	9.5	5–9.5	9.8	0–9.8	2.59 (avg.)	0.57–5.1	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2014	200	200	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.253 (avg.)	0–7.34	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	4	4	1.04	0.954–1.04	1.03	0–1.03	0.77 (avg.)	0.5–1.32	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2014	60	NA	6.2	0–6.2	0	0–0	7.4 ³	0–24 ³	0.6	0–0.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2014	10	10	4.77	2.09–4.77	4.77	2.09–4.77	0.83 (avg.)	0–2.52	0.0006	0–0.0006	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2014	50	50	0.007	0.0044–0.007	0.004	0–0.004	3 (avg.)	0–10	NA	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2014	80	NA	8.2	0–8.2	ND	NA	30.7 (avg.) ⁴	0–131 ⁴	0.112	0.00181–0.112	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Thallium (ppb)	2014	2	0.5	NA	NA	ND	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2014	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.56 ⁵	1.56–1.8 ⁵	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2014	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.24 ⁶	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2014	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community⁷

			Ft Bliss-Main Post		Biggs Army Airfield		El Paso Water Utilities		East Biggs Water System				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source		
Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	1.3	0.0685	0/30	0.0947 ⁸	0/20 ⁸	0.51	0	0.5	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2014	15	0	1.1	0/30	0.489 ⁸	0/20 ⁸	2	0	1.1	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

			Ft Bliss-Main Post		Biggs Army Airfield				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Exceedance	Typical Source
Aluminum (ppb)	2014	200	NA	6.8	0–6.8	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2014	250	NA	183	48.9–183	48.3	0–48.3	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2014	6.5–8.5	NA	8.2	7.8–8.2	8.1	8.1–8.1	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	250	NA	132	56–132	55.7	0–55.7	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2014	500	NA	693	344–693	343	0–343	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁹

			Ft Bliss -Main Post		Biggs Army Airfield		El Paso Water Utilities			
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source		
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2014	2	0–2	ND	NA	7.63 (avg.)	0–49.8	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Bromoform (ppb)	2014	3.36	0–3.36	ND	NA	4.84 (avg.)	0–17.5	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Chloroform (ppb)	2014	1.6	0–1.6	ND	NA	3.55 (avg.)	0–37.7	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2014	NA	NA	ND	NA	10.5 (avg.)	0–44.8	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Sodium (ppm)	2014	96.6	84.2–96.6	85.5	85.5–85.5	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity		

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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.

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.

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.

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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): SMCLs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like taste and odor.

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

Sampling Results

Fort Bliss Water Services Company and El Paso Water Utilities routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables list all the drinking water contaminants that Fort