

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Consumer Confidence Report  
2009  
City of Elephant Butte**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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 treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is two ground water wells that draw from the Rio Grande Basin. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the office at 575-744-4892.

The City of Elephant Butte routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Action Level* - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant (Unit Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Range Of Level Detected	Date Tested	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	Absent	12 Samples per year	0	Must have a presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Arsenic (ppb)	YES	11	4 x / year	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	NO	0.02	3/19/09	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Copper (ppm)	NO	0.14341	09/02/08	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	NO	2.25	3/19/09	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	NO	0.00135	09/02/08	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	NO	0.53	3/19/09	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	NO	.271	3/19/09	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
<b>Disinfection By Products</b>						
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	NO	none	6/3/09	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NO	10.7	6/3/09	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### ***What does this mean?***

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Arsenic above 10 ppb up through 50 ppb. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 City of Elephant Butte 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 for the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### **Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected**

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by the City of Elephant Butte has a fluoride concentration of 2.25 mg/L. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under the age of nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem. For more information, please call the City of Elephant Butte. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP."

### **Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP)**

The City of Elephant Butte water supply system is well maintained and operated, and 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 entire water system is moderately high. Please contact the City of Elephant Butte to discuss the findings of the SWAPP report.

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 primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water.

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In our continuing efforts to comply with the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act and maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year and for your understanding.

We at The City of Elephant Butte work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. **We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.**

**If you would like a copy of this Consumer Confidence Report or have questions please contact the office at (575) 744-4892.**

## **Important Information about Your Drinking Water**

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Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Elephant Butte

State Water System ID #: NM3573627

Date Distributed: June 14, 2010

Method Used To Distribute:    Posted: July14, 2010    Other: Website