

# ALAMOSA CITY OF 2017 Drinking Water Quality Report

## For Calendar Year 2016

*Public Water System ID: CO0102100*

*Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.*

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact PATRICK STEENBURG at 719-589-6631 with any questions or for public participation opportunities that may affect water quality.

### General Information

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants:** 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:** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**Lead in Drinking Water**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems (especially for pregnant women and young children). It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. 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. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report please visit <http://wqcdcompliance.com/ccr>. The report is located under "Source Water Assessment Reports", and then "Assessment Report by County". Select ALAMOSA County and find 102100; ALAMOSA CITY OF or by contacting PATRICK STEENBURG at 719-589-6631. The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that *could* occur. It *does not* mean that the contamination *has or will* occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed on the next page.

Please contact us to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Quality Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day.

**Our Water Sources**

<b><u>Source</u></b>	<b><u>Source Type</u></b>	<b><u>Water Type</u></b>	<b><u>Potential Source(s) of Contamination</u></b>
BRUSH WELL FROM E ALAMOSA	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles.
EASD HWY 17 WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic

				Systems and Road Miles
PRICE WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles	
ROSS WELL PLANT WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles	
21ST ST WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles	
12TH ST WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High and Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles	
COLE PARK WELL	Well	Groundwater	Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tanks, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High	

			and Low Intensity/ Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous and Evergreen Forest, Septic Systems and Road Miles
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**Terms and Abbreviations**

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Health-Based** – A violation of either a MCL or TT.
- **Non-Health-Based** – A violation that is not a MCL or TT.
- **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – 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.
- **Violation (No Abbreviation)** – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.
- **Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation)** – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.
- **Variance and Exemptions (V/E)** – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation)** – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.
- **Compliance Value (No Abbreviation)** – Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).
- **Average (x-bar)** – Typical value.
- **Range (R)** – Lowest value to the highest value.
- **Sample Size (n)** – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).
- **Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Not Applicable (N/A)** – Does not apply or not available.
- **Level I Assessment** – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

- **Level 2 Assessment** – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.



**Detected Contaminants**

ALAMOSA CITY OF routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

**Note:** Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.

<b>Disinfectants Sampled in the Distribution System</b>						
<b>TT Requirement:</b> At least 95% of samples per period (month or quarter) must be at least 0.2 ppm <b><i>OK</i></b>						
If sample size is less than 40 no more than 1 sample is below 0.2 ppm						
<b>Typical Sources:</b> Water additive used to control microbes						
Contaminant Name	Time Period	Results	Number of Samples Below Level	Sample Size	TT Violation	MRDL
Chlorine	December, 2016	Lowest period percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 100%	0	10	No	4.0 ppm

<b>Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System</b>								
Contaminant Name	Time Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Time Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources	
Copper	06/22/2015 to 06/24/2015	0.16	20	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

\*Lead was also tested and all results were undetectable.

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System										
Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Value	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2016	2	2 to 2	1	ppb	80	N/A		No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Arsenic	2016	5.28	4.2 to 6.4	4	ppb	10	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2014	0.02	0.02 to 0.02	1	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2014	1.4	1.4 to 1.4	1	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories



**Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System**

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	2016	0.04	0.04 to 0.04	1	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

**Arsenic:** while your drinking water meets the EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The 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.

**Secondary Contaminants\*\***

\*\*Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low - High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Sodium	2014	44.2	44.2 to 44.2	1	ppm	N/A

**Unregulated Contaminants\*\*\***

EPA has implemented the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA uses the results of UCMR monitoring to learn about the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to decide whether or not these contaminants will be regulated in the future. We performed monitoring and reported the analytical results of the monitoring to EPA in accordance with its Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). Once EPA reviews the submitted results, the results are made available in the EPA's National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) (<http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod>). Consumers can review UCMR results by accessing the NCOD. Contaminants that were detected during our UCMR3 sampling and the corresponding analytical results are provided below.

