

CITY OF CORTEZ

2007 Drinking Water

Consumer Confidence Report

For Calendar Year 2006

Public Water System ID #CO-0142200

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.

General Information About Drinking Water

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. 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 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**, 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, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that 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, 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.

Our Water Source(s)

Source	Water Type
McPhee Reservoir	Surface Water

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply, you may obtain a copy of the report by visiting www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html or by contacting Bruce Smart at 970-565-9824.

Potential sources of contamination in our source water area come from surface runoff of contaminants and natural sources.

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.

Please contact Bruce Smart at 970-565-9824 to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence 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 of water we deliver to you every day. To learn more about the City of Cortez Water Department, go to the City's website at www.cityofcortez.com.

Terms and Abbreviations

The following definitions will help you understand the terms and abbreviations used in this report:

- **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 (µg/L)**- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/L)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- **Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/L)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Action Level (AL)** - 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 Goal (MCLG)** - The “Goal” 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**- The “Maximum Allowed” 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 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.
- **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.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months.
- **Gross Alpha, Including RA, Excluding RN & U:** This is the gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222 and uranium.

Detected Contaminants

The City of Cortez 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, 2006, 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. The “Range” column in the table(s) below will show a single value for those contaminants that were sampled only once. Violations, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

Note: Only detected contaminants appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section, it means that the City of Cortez did not detect any contaminants in the last round of monitoring.

Organics and Inorganics	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Barium	10/18/2006	0.085	0.085	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Organics and Inorganics	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Chromium	10/18/2006	2.9	2.9	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity	Sample Date	Level Found	TT Requirement	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	Date: May 31, 2006	Highest single measurement: 0.3 NTU	Maximum 1.0 NTU for any single measurement	Soil Runoff
	Month: June	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT standard for our technology: 100%	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	

Disinfection By-Products	Date	Average	Range	Highest RAA	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2006	51.48	47 – 56	51	ppb	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2006	32.6	25 - 41	32	ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

TOC	Compliance Factor (measurements should not be lower than this factor)	Lowest RAA (compliance factor)	RAA Range for the Year (compliance factor)	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	1.0	1.14	1.14 – 1.22	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90TH Percentile	Unit	AL	Typical Source
Copper	2005 - 2007	0.27	ppm	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	2005 - 2007	5.1	ppb	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants/ Other Monitoring	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary Standard
Sodium	10/18/2006	5.8	5.8	MG/L	10000

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. EPA recommends these standards, but does not require water systems to comply.

Health Information About Water Quality

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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 elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for thirty (30) seconds to two (2) minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

There are no additional required health effects notices.

Violations

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in Calendar Year 2006			

Health Information About the Above Violation(s)

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

Water Supplies Adequate for Southwestern Colorado in 2006

Southwest Colorado and Montezuma County have again had a below-average snow-pack this year. McPhee Reservoir is expected to fill completely due to leftover water from 2006. This dry winter extends the drought that began in 1999, with only 2005 being an above-average year.

The City of Cortez continues to promote water conservation as an important part of daily water usage. The phrase "Use Water Wisely" is the focal point of water conservation. City water supplies are plentiful and water users will be able to water as needed while complying with the "No Watering Between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m." restriction. The "no watering during the hottest part of the day" restriction is a permanent ordinance and will be enforced.

The City passed Ordinance No. 1013, Series 2004, which permanently banned irrigation watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to be enforced from May 15th through September 15th every year. On the first violation, the water user will receive a warning. On the second violation, the water will be turned off and will require a \$50.00 turn-on fee to have the water turned back on. The best water conservation measure available to the City is to just not waste water.

Violations – The City will be enforcing Sec. 27-19 of the Cortez City Code: "Wasting Water Prohibited" concerning unattended hoses/watering systems or excessive waste due to poor watering practices. The City will notify residents violating the ordinance with a courtesy warning; however, successive violations will receive a citation subject to fines. Should the City declare a water conservation emergency, restrictions will be specifically stated and notices delivered to residents as to the extent of necessary water conservation. Questions can be directed to the Public Works Department in the City Service Center at 565-7320.

Recommended Watering Schedule – It is recommended that residents implement a Two or Three Times a Week Watering Schedule. Residents can choose the two days that best work for their lawns and garden. Those residents with automatic sprinklers for their lawns should be able to program their controllers to meet these recommendations. No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. from May 15th through September 15th every year as a result of Ordinance No. 1013, Series 2004, because most of the water evaporates in the heat of the day.

Best Lawn Watering Practices – Lawns should be watered in the early morning between 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. or late evening between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Wetting the soil 4 to 6 inches deep, with several days between watering, develops deep, solid roots. Lawns with deep root growth are more resistant to drought. Use a goal of applying approximately one inch or less of water per week on the lawn. Other water conservation tips for lawns should be followed whenever possible.

In-Home Water Conservation – There are many water conservation practices you can do in the home that will save water. Some of these include taking quicker showers, not letting the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth, and only running full loads of clothes or dishes.

No Wasted Water – Do Not Allow Hoses to Run Unattended; Fix Plumbing Leaks Immediately; Fix Leaking Toilets; and Report Water Main Leaks in the Street to the Public Works Department in the City Service Center by calling (970)565-7320.