



Town of Silver City  
 Utilities Department  
 1211 N. Hudson St.  
 Silver City, NM 88061  
 www.townofsilvercity.org

PRSR STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Silver City, NM  
 Permit No. 140

## Table Definitions

<b>90th Percentile:</b> Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.	<b>ND (Non-Detects):</b> Not detected; Contaminant is not present.
<b>AL (Action Level):</b> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.	<b>pCi/L: (Picocuries per liter):</b> A measurement of radioactivity in water.
<b>MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):</b> 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.	<b>ppb (parts per billion):</b> One part substance per billion parts water or 1 minute in 2,000 years.
<b>MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	<b>ppm (parts per million):</b> One part substance per million parts water or 1 minute in 2 years.
	<b>TT (Treatment Technique):</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

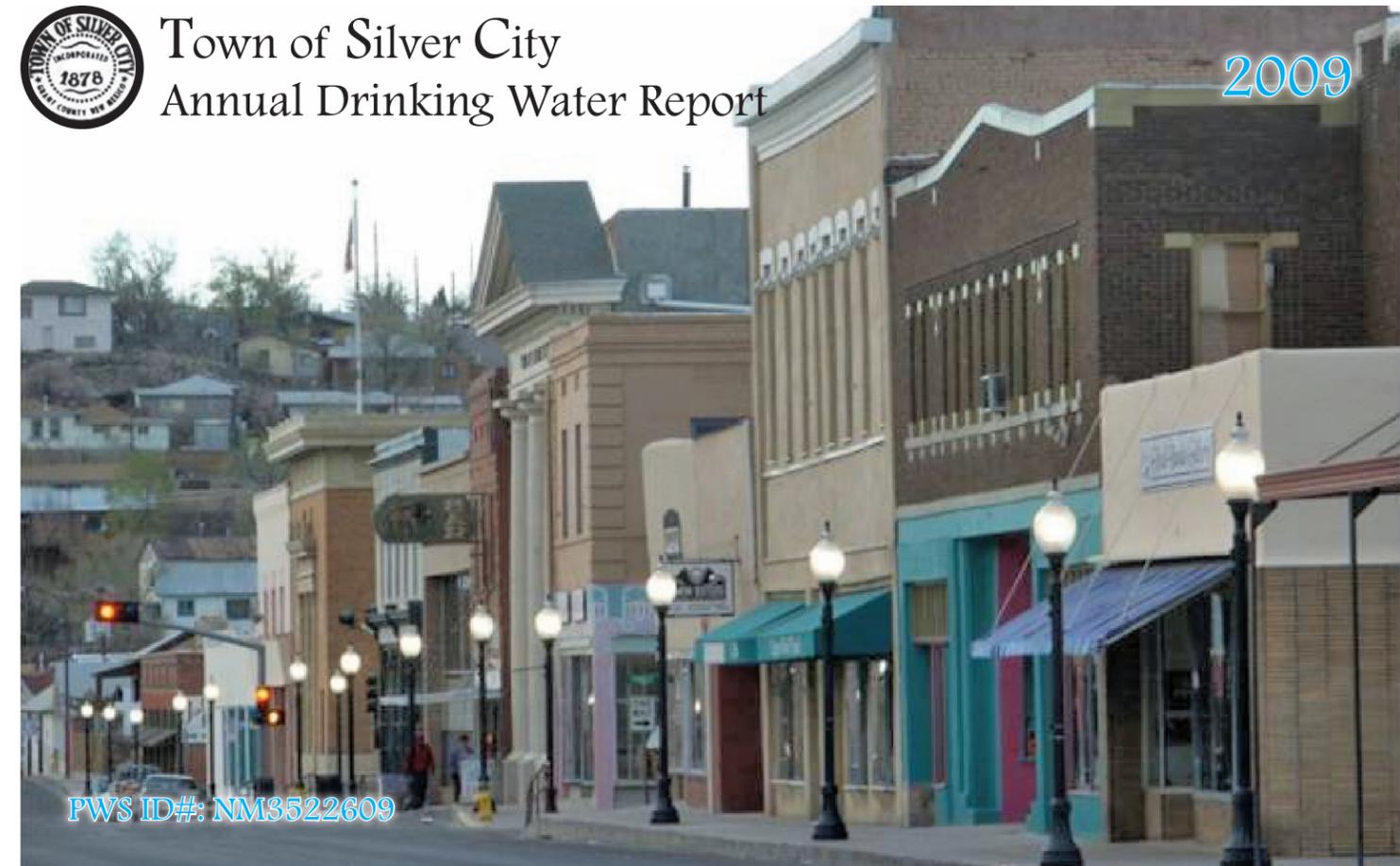
## Results of Monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE HI-LOW	MEETS EPA STANDARDS	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>METALS</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	2008	10	0	1.25	1.56 – 0.93	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics product waste.
Barium (ppb)	2008	2,000	2,000	3.60	5.69 – 1.51	YES	Discharge of drilling waste, metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.
Beryllium (ppb)	2008	4	0	.56	1.12-ND	YES	Erosion of natural deposits as ores containing other elements.
Chromium (ppb)	2008	100	100	1.93	2.21-1.65	YES	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	2008	50	50	6	7-5	YES	Discharge from petroleum refineries and mines or erosion of natural deposits.
<b>MINERALS</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	4	4	1.69	1.99-1.39	YES	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<b>NUTRIENTS</b>							
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	2.02	2.46-1.57	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2004	15	0	6.60	6.60-5.60	YES	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2004	50	0	2.30	2.30-2.10	YES	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2004	5	0	0.25	0.25-ND	YES	Erosion of natural deposits.



## Town of Silver City Annual Drinking Water Report

2009



PWS ID#: NM3522609

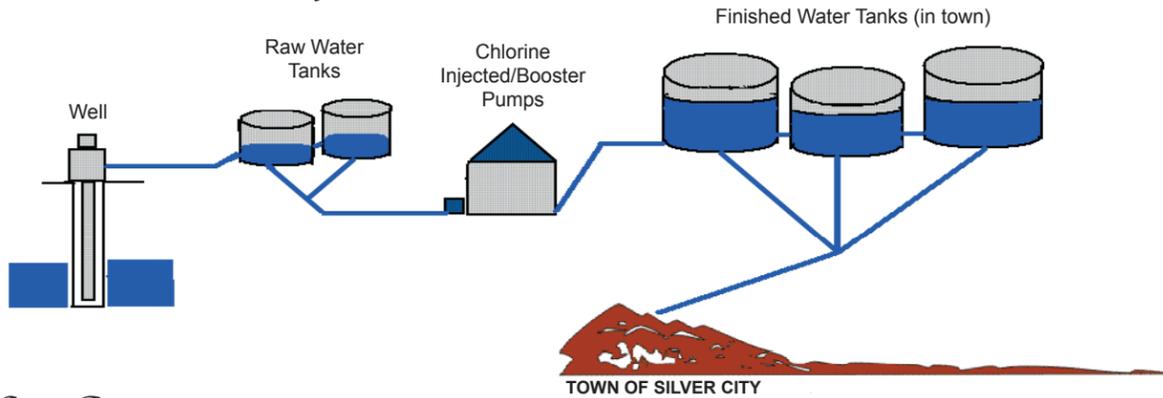
# Our Commitment to You

We are pleased to present you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Town of Silver City. This report covers all monitoring sampling performed from January–December 2008. We are happy to inform you that we are in compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations.

The Town of Silver City is committed to delivering the best quality of drinking water. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

For more information about this report or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Utilities Department at (575) 534-6365. You may also email Robert M. Esqueda, Utilities Director at [resqueda@qwestoffice.net](mailto:resqueda@qwestoffice.net) or Norma J. Ramirez, Utilities Executive Secretary at [nramirez@silvercitymail.com](mailto:nramirez@silvercitymail.com).

## Where Does My Water Come From?



Water Well



Chlorine & Booster Pump



Water Storage Tanks



Water Dept. testing water main pressure.

Silver City's water is supplied solely by ground water that is pumped out of wells located in two separate well fields. The Frank's Well Field is comprised of four wells that all draw from the Gila-San Francisco Water Basin. The second well field is the Woodward Well Field that is comprised of six wells that all draw from the Mimbres Water Basin. Two additional wells that are not considered part of the Woodward Well Field also supply the Town with water. They are the Gabby Hayes and the Anderson Well which both draw from the Mimbres Water Basin.

## Source Water Assessment & Protection (SWAP)

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by the Environment Department. The complete SWAP report is available at the State of New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4, Santa Fe, NM 87505. You may also request copies by emailing the Drinking Water Bureau at [SWAPP@nmenv.state.nm.us](mailto:SWAPP@nmenv.state.nm.us) or by calling (505) 827-7536 (toll free 1-877-654-8720).

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

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Does Silver City have hard water?

Water hardness is defined by the amount of calcium and magnesium present. When the levels are comparatively low (0-125 ppm), water is described as soft. When the levels are comparatively high (300+ ppm), water is described as hard. Water in Silver City is described as medium hard (125-200 ppm). Harder water does not lather as easily and does not form as many suds when using soap or detergent.

### Is fluoride added to Silver City's water?

Fluoride is a substance which is known to retard the formation of cavities in teeth. In some communities, fluoride is added to drinking water. The American Dental Association recommends a concentration of 1 part per million. However, fluoride occurs naturally in Silver City's water at the optimal level. Bottled water usually does not contain fluoride and, therefore, is not recommended for children. Because too much fluoride can be detrimental, the maximum level set by EPA standards is 4 parts per million.

### Is the chlorine used to disinfect water dangerous?

Silver City uses chlorine to disinfect our drinking water. Chlorine is the most effective way to ensure that water stays disinfected as it travels throughout the water distribution system. Chlorine prevents water-borne epidemics such as cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis. The maximum amount of chlorine in Silver City's water is usually 0.6 parts per million. Chlorine in this quantity poses no adverse health risks.

### Sometimes my water seems cloudy. Is the cloudy water safe to drink?

Water that appears cloudy/milky is usually the result of harmless air bubbles trapped in the water. After a glass of this water sits for a few minutes, the water will become clear as the air bubbles float to the top. Although the air trapped in the water does not affect the safety of the water, please report this problem to the Town of Silver City's Utilities Department at (575) 534-6365.



## Important Health Information

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Gente Con Condiciones Inmunológicas Especiales

Algunas personas pueden ser más vulnerables, a elementos contaminantes en el agua, que la mayoría de la población. Gente con condiciones inmunológicas especiales, como; pacientes de cáncer que reciben tratamientos de quimioterapia, pacientes receptores de órganos transplantados, individuos afectados por VIH/SIDA, gente de avanzada edad o recién nacidos, pueden ser particularmente más vulnerables a infecciones. Dichos grupos deben buscar recomendaciones específicas, en referencia a la ingestión de agua potable, de sus proveedoras de servicio de salud. Mayor información se encuentra concentrada en un conjunto de normas y pautas, de USEPA/Center for Disease Control, destinadas a minimizar las posibilidades y efectos de infección causada por *Cryptosporidium* y otros contaminantes microbianos, y disponibles a través del Safe Drinking Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

US EPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. US EPA defines where and how often samples for each substance must be collected. The table below shows the substances found in samples collected at customer taps throughout the distribution system in 2008.

## Monitoring Results Throughout Distribution System

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE HI-LOW	MEETS EPA STANDARDS	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>DISINFECTANTS</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	2008	4	4	0.39	0.66 – 0.01	YES	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2008	60	60	1.89	6-ND	YES	By-product of chlorination for disinfection of water formed when chlorine reacts to organics in water.
{TTHM's} Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	2008	80	80	0.014	0.026 – 0.0003	YES	By-product of chlorination for disinfection of water formed when chlorine reacts to organics in water.
<b>LEAD &amp; COPPER</b>							
Copper (ppm) 90th Percentile	2008	AL=1.3	1.3	0.11	0.53 - 0.005	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb) 90th Percentile	2008	AL=15	0	1.10	3.56-0.16	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
Total Coliforms/ 180 Samples Yearly	2008	1	0	ND	0	YES	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment; not a health threat in itself; it is used to indicate whether other potential harmful bacteria may be present.

As you can see by the table above, our system had no violations. We strive to assure that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Town of Silver City's Utilities Department at (575) 534-6365. Para recibir una explicación de este reporte en español, por favor de ponerse en contacto con nuestra oficina al (575) 534-6365.



The substances listed in this table are not regulated by the EPA; however, the Utilities Department receives frequent calls about them, so we provide this information as a service to our customers.

Alkalinity (ppm)	157 - 203	176	N/A
Hardness (ppm)	132 - 200	162 (Medium) or 9.45 grains/gallon	N/A
pH – Acidity (pH Units)	7.16 – 7.69	7.5	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	18.7 – 34.7	25.4	N/A
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	190 – 279	217	N/A