

VALENCIA WATER COMPANY - GREATER BUCKEYE DIVISION BULFER SYSTEM 2010 WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report contains information about the drinking water our utility provides to your home. Please take a moment to review this information and call us if you have any questions about our water service to you.

Valencia Water Company - Greater Buckeye Division – A subsidiary of Global Water Resources (623) 518-4000

Spanish (Español)
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua para beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Is my water safe?

The Bulfer water system, public water system number AZ04-07-114, which is part of the Valencia Water Company - Greater Buckeye Division, is dedicated to providing customers with water that meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. Unless otherwise indicated, this report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

In 2010, your drinking water met or surpassed all State and Federal drinking water standards.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, or who have undergone organ transplants, or those 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 / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial organisms. This information is available from the Federal Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) and on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

Where does my water come from?

The Bulfer water system is served by a well located within its service area that is approximately 270 feet deep with a total production capacity of 40 gallons per minute (gpm). Water from the well is chlorinated for disinfection and stored in a 130,000 gallon storage tank.

Three booster pumps and a hydropneumatic tank maintain constant pressure throughout the distribution system.

Source water assessment, and its availability

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. You can directly impact the availability of water in your community through judicious use of water by: irrigating at night, employing timers for irrigation systems, maximizing xeriscape, fixing leaky faucets, etc. Please visit our website at www.gwresources.com/conservation_education.php for additional information on water conservation practices.

In 2002 the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a Source Water Assessment for the well used by the Bulfer water system. The assessment reviewed the hydrogeologic conditions and adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the water sources. These risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, landfills, dry cleaners, agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities.

*continued overleaf

Water quality data table

Unless otherwise indicated, the table below lists all of the contaminants that we detected in the drinking water during the 2010 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| Substance | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT or MRDL | Lowest Level | Highest Level | Compliance Achieved | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|--------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial organisms) | | | | | | |
| Chlorine [as Cl ₂] (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.2 | 2.6 | Yes | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb) | NA | 60 | NA | 2.2 | Yes | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM's] (ppb) | NA | 80 | NA | 14 | Yes | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Inorganic Chemicals | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) 2008 Data | 0 | 10 | NA | 5.0 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppm) 2007 Data | 2 | 2 | NA | 0.18 | Yes | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium (ppb) 2007 Data | 100 | 100 | NA | 28 | Yes | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) 2007 Data | 4 | 4 | NA | 1.2 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 5.8 | 6.8 | Yes | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium (ppb) 2007 Data | 50 | 50 | NA | 3.5 | Yes | Discharge from petroleum and metals refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines |
| Microbial Organisms | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform (positive samples/month) | 0 | 1 | NA | 0 | Yes | Naturally present in the environment |
| Radionuclides | | | | | | |
| Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) [2002 Data] | 0 | 15 | NA | 2.9 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead and Copper | | Action Level | | Your Water | Compliance Achieved | Typical Source |
| Copper— action level at consumer taps (ppm) 2009 Data | 90% of homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.3 ppm | 90% of the homes tested had copper levels less than 0.022 ppm | Yes | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | | |
| Lead— action level at consumer taps (ppb) 2009 Data | 90% of homes tested must have lead levels less than 15 ppb | 90% of the homes tested had lead levels less than 3.8 ppb | Yes | Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits | | |

*Continued from front page

Once ADEQ identified the adjacent land uses, they were ranked as to their potential to affect the water sources. The results of the assessment were that the well had a **low risk** of contamination due to adjacent land use.

The water is protected by well construction and system operations and management. Residents can help protect water by taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous material collection sites and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use.

Proper backflow prevention practices, such as vacuum breakers on hoses, are important aspects of maintaining water quality. Proper disposal of residual oils and greases, chemicals or cleaners is of paramount importance to ensuring the viability and integrity of our community water supply. As with all water sources, contamination by industrial, agricultural and commercial activities remain a constant threat. Any spills or improperly disposed of chemicals that may in time end up contaminating the aquifer can have an effect on the water quality supplies to customers and can affect the cost of treatment for potable water.

The complete assessment is available for inspection at ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, Arizona 85007, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. Electronic copies are available from ADEQ. For more information, call ADEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection Unit at 602-771-4644 or visit their website www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/swap.html.

Backflow prevention device information

Bulfer water system has implemented an ACC approved backflow prevention program to protect the public water supply from contamination caused by backflow through unprotected cross-connections. The program requires the installation and annual testing of backflow prevention assemblies in all areas considered to be a potential cross-connection contamination hazard. A backflow prevention device prevents the reverse flow condition created by a difference in water pressure, which causes water to flow back into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply. In doing this it prevents contamination of the water supply. A backflow prevention assembly must be installed as close as practical to the service connection (usually just past the water meter on the customer's side).

How can I get involved ?

Bulfer water system customers may get involved in their water system through such activities as well-head protection (activities around wells to prevent contamination of the water) and attendance at public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use.

Water resources throughout the state are under extreme pressure from development and drought and must be conserved to ensure adequate supplies for the future. Avoiding water waste, employing smart water-use practices and reducing consumption are key elements of life in the desert.

For more information please contact:

Valencia Water Company-Greater Buckeye Division, Bulfer System, PWS AZ04-07-114
Address: 21410 N. 19th Ave., Suite 201, Phoenix, AZ 85027
P: 623-518-4000 F: 623-580-9659 www.gwresources.com

All consumers can do their part to conserve water and to properly dispose of household chemicals. In addition, reporting unauthorized entry or access to the well sites or booster stations is a critical component to ensuring continued safety and security of our community water sources. Should you notice any unusual activity in or around wells or tank sites, please contact law enforcement officials by dialing 911.

General information about drinking water

To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA issues regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 water poses a health risk. More information about these contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial organisms including viruses, bacteria or parasites (such as Cryptosporidium or Giardia), which may come from agricultural or livestock operations and wildlife;
- Inorganic chemicals such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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, storm water runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemicals including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic tanks;
- Radioactive chemicals which occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

Additional information for arsenic

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

Additional information for nitrate

Your water **does not** contain nitrate levels above the MCL, but it exceeds 5 ppm, the value at which we are required to inform our customers. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of times because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health provider.

Unit descriptions

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ppm: | parts per million; milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb: | parts per billion; micrograms per liter (ug/L) |
| pCi/L: | picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| Positive samples/month: | number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive |
| NA: | not applicable |
| ND: | not detected |

Important drinking water definitions

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| MCLG: | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. |
| MCL: | Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology. |
| TT: | Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL: | Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions: | State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG: | Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| 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. |



For over a hundred ways to save water, visit: www.wateruseitwisely.com

