

VALENCIA WATER COMPANY - GREATER BUCKEYE DIVISION

BULFER SYSTEM

2011 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 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 2011, your drinking water met or surpassed all State and Federal drinking water standards.

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

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.

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.

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.

Backflow prevention device information

The public 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 practicable to the service connection (usually just past the water meter on the customer's side).

Theft of backflow prevention assemblies is an increasing concern due the current price of scrap brass and copper. You can protect your device by placing it in a screened metal enclosure that is set on a concrete pad. There are also other types of locking devices available for purchase.

Water Quality Data Table

Unless otherwise indicated, the table below lists all of the contaminants that we detected in the drinking water during the 2011 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	0.6	1.7	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb) 2010 Data	NA	60	NA	2.2	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM's] (ppb) 2010 Data	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	NA	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	0	1	Yes*	Naturally present in the environment
See "Important information about total coliforms" for more information						
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	

How can I get involved ?

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 <http://www.gwresources.com/resources/Pages/education.aspx> for additional information on water conservation practices.

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.

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.

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

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.

Important information about total coliforms

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

The one routine sample submitted for total coliform analysis in the month of July 2011 indicated a positive result for total coliform, but negative for E. Coli. As required by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40, Part 141.21(b)(2), we initiated repeat sampling at the location of the original positive sample and at a location upstream and downstream of the original location. **All of these repeat samples were negative for total coliform and E. Coli.** So, while we had an initial test that indicated coliforms were present, every subsequent test showed acceptable levels.

As required by CFR Title 40, Part 141.21(b)(5), we are required to perform increased monitoring in addition to the regular scheduled sample in the following month after a coliform event. The increased monitoring was not completed in the following month of August and therefore we are required to inform you of the missed monitoring for total coliform. While the regular scheduled sample tested negative for total coliform in August and the system continues to test negative for total coliform, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in the drinking water and should seek advice from a health care provider if concerned.

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.

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

There are a number of ways to save water and they all start with you!

- C**hoose low water-use plants for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- O**nly water when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- N**ever use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- S**horten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- E**ncourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.
- R**eport broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- V**erify your irrigation use by using a tuna can to measure and adjust sprinkler output.
- A**lways use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons of water every time.
- T**urn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- I**f your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 secs, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- O**nly run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full and you can save 1,000 gallons a month.
- N**ever water your lawn on windy days since most of the water gets blown away or evaporates.

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

