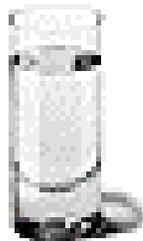
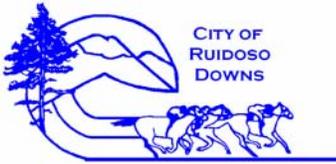


City of Ruidoso Downs Municipal Water System

CY 2003 Annual Consumer Report on the Quality of Your Drinking Water

For areas serviced by the Ruidoso Downs Municipal Water System.





City of Ruidoso Downs Municipal Water System

2003 Annual Consumer Report on the Quality of Your Drinking Water

For areas serviced by the Ruidoso Downs Municipal Water System.

This is an **US EPA-required report** that is a result of an unfunded mandate added under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act amendment of 1996. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. The purpose of the law is to assure that the nation's water supply systems serving the public meet minimum national standards for the protection of public health.

Este noticia contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

This brochure explains how drinking water provided by the City of Ruidoso Downs is of high quality. Included is a listing of results from water-quality tests as well as an explanation of where our water comes from and tips on how to interpret the data. Law requires this "Consumer Confidence Report". We're proud to share our results with you. Please read them carefully.

Our drinking water currently meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water quality standards.

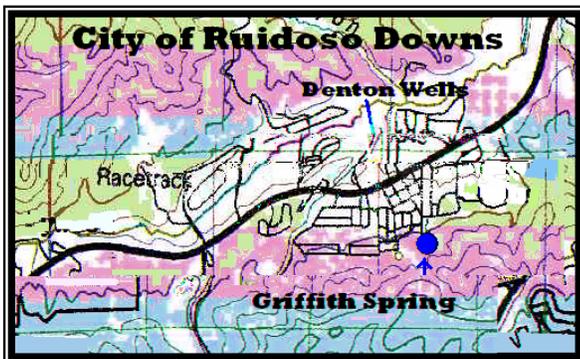
Overview

In the calendar year of 2003, your water department produced 145 million gallons of water to Ruidoso Downs's area customers. Our system consists of 22.7 miles of water distribution and transmission lines spread throughout the Ruidoso Downs area and in Lincoln County. The Water Department office is located in City Hall at 122 Downs Drive. City water main leaks should be reported to City Hall at 378-4422 (M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM) or the Police Department at 378-4421 (after hours, weekends, and holidays). Water billing is handled through the Finance Department at City Hall. Billing inquires can be directed to the Water Department Customer Service at 378-4422 (M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM).

Water Sources

The City of Ruidoso Downs is serviced by two sources – Griffith Spring and the Denton Well (see Map below). Approximately 99% of Ruidoso Downs's water is supplied by groundwater originating from a flowing spring (called Griffith Spring) located near the southern corporate boundary of Ruidoso Downs (identified as in Map below). The aquifer from which this water comes from is located in the Yeso Formation. The City of Ruidoso Downs, under the authority of its new ordinance (Ordinance 2002-06), maintains and enforces a Water Conservation Program and will be initiating a Wellhead Protection Program later this year to protect your water from contamination and depletion.

Map A: Geographic Location of Griffith Spring and Denton Wells



The Denton Well is used primarily to supplement the Griffith Spring. This well is 150 feet in depth and pulls water from the same aquifer as the Griffith Spring.

The SDWA covers all public water systems with piped water for human consumption with at least 15 service connections or a system that regularly serves at least 25 individuals. The SDWA directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish national drinking water standards. These standards limit the amount of certain contaminants provided by public water. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the [EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline \(800-426-4791\)](http://www.epa.gov).

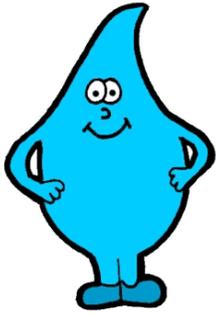


Table A: Areas Serviced by the Ruidoso Downs Municipal Water System
Every service connection in City of Ruidoso Downs.
A small area south of Colorado Lane
The Agua Fria Subdivision east of Ruidoso Downs



DEFINITIONS OF WATER QUALITY TERMS

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Gallons per minute (gpm) – Quantity of water that flows through meter in one minute.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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 - 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 (picogram/L) - One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

Variations & Exemptions (V&E) - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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 Contaminant Level Goal -The "Goal" (MCLG) 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.

How to Read This Table

This report is based upon tests conducted from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 by the City of Ruidoso Downs Public Water System and the New Mexico Environment Department. The table refers to water tested from the Griffith Spring and Denton Well (see Table B). Terms used in the Water-Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined below.

Key To Table B below:

AL = Action Level MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal MFL = million fibers per liter NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)	pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l) ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter TT = Treatment Technique
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Table B: Griffith Spring & Denton Well Contaminants. If you live or work in service area (see Table A above), use this table:

					Denton Well	Griffith Springs			
Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL What's Allowed	MCLG	<u>Detected Level</u> What's in your Water	<u>Detected Level</u> What's in your Water	<u>Detected Range</u> What's in your Water	Major Sources	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants									
Arsenic	07/09/02	ppb	10	0	0.8	0.5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	NO
Barium	07/09/02	ppm	2	2	0.012	0.011	N/A	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries Erosion of natural formations	NO
Chromium	07/09/02	ppb	100	100	9.2	9.5	N/A	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural formations	NO
Selenium	07/09/02	ppb	50	50	3.3	1.9	N/A	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Thallium	07/09/02	ppb	2.0	0.5	0.13	0.08	N/A	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and pharmaceutical companies	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite as N	10/28/03	ppm	10	10	0.21	0.2	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Discharge from mines. Erosion of natural formations	NO
Fluoride	7/09/02	ppm	4	4	0.45	0.39	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Radioactive Contaminants									
Alpha emitters	7/13/99	pCi/L	15	0	0.40	1.50	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Beta/photon emitters	7/13/99	pCi/L	50	0	3.90	4.90	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	NO
Radium 226/228	7/13/99	pCi/L	5	0	0.04	0.02	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
Total Trihalomethanes	11/11/03	ppb	80	0	4.66	5.75	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	NO

Explanation of Violations

NO VIOLATIONS OCCURRED DURING THIS PERIOD.

Lead

In August 2003, water samples were collected and analyzed to determine if the quality of your water would affect any lead and copper appurtenances in local households. The results indicated that 100% of the samples met the Federal Guidelines with 0% exceeding these standards. The highest content from all tested locations for lead was 5.1 ppb and for copper was 135.3 ppb. The action level for lead is 15 ppb and copper is 1300 ppb. As you can see, our results are well below the federal guidelines for an action level. 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 at 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Radon

Testing in 1997 showed a radon level of 334 to 479 pCi/l for Griffith Spring. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing a regulation, which will specify a Maximum Contaminant Level for radon. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in ground water and is released from water into the air during household use. At high exposure levels it can cause lung cancer. The amount of radon exposure from your drinking water amounts to only a small fraction of the overall household exposure that the average person receives and should not be a cause for concern.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 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).

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 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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, 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.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Other Important Water Characteristics

Other water characteristics, which are not categorized as contaminants, are also tested. This information can be valuable for those on very specifically restricted diets, for determining how the water would serve in special applications such as photo developing, water softeners and other chemistry sensitive areas, or in balancing chemical characteristics in sensitive environments such as aquariums. The following is a summary of the test results as of the end of 2001.

Chemical Characteristic	Average Level	Comments
pH	7.98	Normal
Total Hardness	About 20 grains/gallon	Moderately Hard
Chlorides	46 mg/L	Normal
Sulfates	541 mg/L	Above average for southeastern NM, high nationally
Fluorides	0.47 mg/L	Normal

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

This report is an unfunded mandate required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act amendment of 1996. Each year, the City is now required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to provide this information to all users of our water and publish a copy in the local newspaper. For more information, call the City of Ruidoso Downs Environmental Services Department at 887-1191.

Public Participation:

Issues dealing with the planning for and protection of your water system are posted in the Council Agenda at the Ruidoso Downs Municipal Building and decisions are made at the corresponding City Council Meetings. Check with Ruidoso Downs City Hall for City Council times and dates. If you are interested in participating in the planning and protection of Ruidoso Downs' drinking water, please plan to attend one soon.

Other Water & Wastewater System News:

Water Projects Planned

Below is a description of the planned projects for the next fifteen years that were recently identified in the City's Water Distribution Master Plan by ASCG, Inc.

1. **Water Line Replacement, Redman Tank Rehabilitation and Pressure Reducing Station Construction –**

This project involves the replacement of 30,000 linear feet of poor condition and undersized pipelines which collectively produce a water loss of over 20%. Shutoff valves and fire hydrants will be installed in ALL areas of the water system that currently do not have them. Pressure reducing stations will be constructed in certain areas of town that have excessive water pressure, which causes more water loss.

2. **Griffith Spring Reservoir (2.5 million gallon) -**

This project involves the construction of a new two and one half (2 1/2) million-gallon reservoir located off of Sierra Lane above Griffith Spring Pump Station. This reservoir will allow the City to store more water during the low usage days to keep up with the weekend and summer demands. Currently, the City uses more than it produces three days a week during the summer. Even worse, the City does not have adequate water in storage to combat a major forest fire. A centralized control system will be installed to monitor the entire system and eliminate numerous man-hours each year needed to monitor and manage the system after hours.

3. **Development of new well field (backup source) and associated storage reservoir (1 million gallon) -**

High Water Bill? Here are some tips for lowering your water usage.

- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.
- Lower pool water level to reduce amount of water splashed out.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- Install ultra-low flow toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water or gravel in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.
- Install low-flow aerators and showerheads.
- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine, which can save over 50% in water and energy use.
- Try xeriscaping. Plants, which are adapted or bred to live in arid or semi-arid areas, require less water.
- Water your lawn in the early pre-dawn or late afternoon hours. On a hot day in Ruidoso Downs, up to 50% of the water sprayed onto your lawn in the middle of the day can be lost to evaporation.

