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7/1/2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code: 2227A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Attn: Raquel Taveras

Re: New Mexico 2023 Annual Compliance Report

Dear Raquel:

Enclosed please find the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau's 2023 PWSS Annual Compliance Report.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please contact me at (505) 467-5207 or email me at [martin.torrez@env.nm.gov](mailto:martin.torrez@env.nm.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Torrez".

Martin Torrez  
Public Water System Supervision Manger  
Drinking Water Bureau  
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT:**

## **PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS COMPLIANCE**



### **DRINKING WATER BUREAU**

### **NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Prepared by: Drinking Water Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department**  
**Submitted to: United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**July 1, 2024**

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## List of Acronyms

C	Community System
CCR	Consumer Confidence Report
CN	Consumer Notice
DBPR	Disinfectant and Disinfection Byproduct Rule
DWB	Drinking Water Bureau
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GWR	Ground Water Rule
GWUDI	Ground Water Under the Direct Influence (of Surface Water)
IESWTR	Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule
IOC	Inorganic Contaminant
LCR	Lead and Copper Rule
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mrem/yr	millirem per year
M/R	Monitoring and Reporting
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
NC	Non-Community System
NM	New Mexico
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NTNC	Non-Transient, Non-Community System
pCi/L	picoCuries per liter
PN	Public Notice
PWS	Public Water System
PWSS	Public Water System Supervision
RTCR	Revised Total Coliform Rule
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SDWIS	Safe Drinking Water Information System
SOC	Synthetic Organic Contaminant
SWTR	Surface Water Treatment Rule
TT	Treatment Technique
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
µg/L	micrograms per liter
V/E	Variances and Exemptions
VOC	Volatile Organic Contaminant

## **Introduction**

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the primary federal law originally enacted in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public water supplies. The SDWA applies to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Indian Lands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It was amended in 1986 and 1996 to ensure protection of the nation's water supplies from the source (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells) to the tap. Contaminants can enter public water supplies from many sources, including improper disposal of chemicals; animal wastes; pesticide applications; human wastes; wastes injected deep underground; and naturally occurring substances. Additionally, drinking water that is not properly treated or disinfected, or which travels through an improperly maintained distribution system, may also pose a health risk. The SDWA establishes national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water and authorizes the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program to ensure proper implementation of the SDWA.

The SDWA allows States and Territories to seek United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval to administer their own PWSS Programs. The authority to run a PWSS Program is called primacy. To receive primacy, States (or tribes or territories) must meet certain requirements laid out in the SDWA and the federal regulations, including the adoption of drinking water regulations that are at least as stringent as the federal regulations and a demonstration that they can enforce the program requirements. EPA currently administers PWSS Programs for all sovereign Indigenous communities except the Navajo Nation, which was granted primacy in late 2000. The State of New Mexico (NM) has been a primacy state since 1976 with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) as the lead agency responsible for implementing the PWSS Program. The DWB protects drinking water quality by providing technical assistance, water system oversight, enforcement, and source water protection to NM's public water systems (PWSs).

Primacy states must implement a PWSS program adequate to enforce the requirements of the SDWA and ensure that PWSs comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Key activities carried out by the NMED DWB under NM's PWSS program include:

- developing and maintaining state drinking water regulations;
- developing and maintaining an inventory of PWSs throughout the state;
- developing and maintaining a database to hold compliance information on PWSs;
- conducting sanitary surveys of PWSs;
- reviewing PWS plans and specifications;
- providing technical assistance to managers and operators of PWSs;
- ensuring that the PWSs regularly inform their consumers about the quality of the water that they are providing;
- certifying laboratories that can perform the analysis of drinking water that will be used to determine compliance with the regulations; and
- carrying out an enforcement program to ensure that PWSs comply with all of the state's requirements.

Each year the NMED DWB prepares and submits to EPA *New Mexico's Annual Public Water Systems Compliance Report* (this report). The purpose of the report is to provide the public with a summary of the different types of drinking water violations accrued by PWSs during the previous calendar year. This report is a mandated requirement of the federally funded PWSS Program and encompasses drinking water violations that were verified during calendar year 2023. NM is required by the SDWA to make this report available to the public. The DWB posts the report on their website at: [www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/](http://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/).

## **Public Water Systems in New Mexico**

PWSs and the types of systems in NM are defined in the table below. A PWS must have the ability to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable drinking water standards to prove the ability to provide safe and affordable water to their customers. PWSs are responsible for complying with all regulations including sampling, monitoring, reporting, performance of treatment techniques, record keeping, and public notice requirements. To meet these requirements, each PWS must perform routine monitoring and ensure sample results are reported to the State regulatory agency. Violations must also be reported to the public and corrected. Failure to perform any of these functions can result in enforcement actions and penalties. NM's PWSS Program provides oversight of PWSs, by determining whether the systems are in compliance with federal and state drinking water laws and regulations; and taking compliance and enforcement actions when necessary to protect public health.

Public Water System Types and Definitions,		
<b>Public Water System</b>	<b>PWS</b>	A system that provides water for human consumption, if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year.
<b>Community</b>	<b>C</b>	A system that serves at least 15 service connections (which may include factories, schools, or places of housing that are on the same distribution system as residences) used by year-round residences or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents.
<b>Non-Transient Non-Community</b>	<b>NTNC</b>	A system that serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year not at their residence (e.g., schools or factories that have their own water source).
<b>Transient Non-community</b>	<b>NC</b>	A system that serves at least 25 persons (but not the same 25) over six months per year not at their residence (e.g., campgrounds or highway rest stops that have their own water source).

In 2023, there were approximately 1071 PWSs that provided drinking water to approximately 2,119,990 persons in NM. See tables below for specific inventories by type, population and sources. Of these PWSs drinking water was provided to approximately 2,013,520 year-round residences (Community Water System). This is roughly 95% of the total population of NM of 2,114,371 (based on 2022 U.S Census Bureau population data, (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NM,US>)). Of the total PWSs in NM, approximately 94% of the public water systems purchase or use ground water as the primary source of drinking water and supply water to 1,148,424 consumers, or approximately 54.1% of consumers who receive water from a PWS.

Number of PWSs in NM by Type and Population (as of 12/31/2023)										
PWS Type	Very Small (≤ 500)		Small (501-3,300)		Medium (3,301-10,000)		Large (>10,000)		TOTAL	
	<b>C</b>	385	68,427	119	163,840	33	209,399	32	1,572,104	<b>569</b>
<b>NC</b>	352	40,955	16	22,563	1	4,500	0	0	<b>369</b>	<b>68,018</b>
<b>NTNC</b>	120	20,537	13	17,665	0	0	0	0	<b>133</b>	<b>38,202</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>129,919</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>204,068</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>213,899</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,572,104</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>2,119,990</b>



Number of PWSs in NM by Source and Population (as of 12/31/2023)														
PWS Type	GWUDI <i>Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water</i>		GWUDIP <i>Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water - Purchased</i>		GW <i>Ground Water</i>		GWP <i>Ground Water - Purchased</i>		SW <i>Surface Water</i>		SWP <i>Surface Water - Purchased</i>		TOTAL	
	SYS	POP	SYS	POP	SYS	POP	SYS	POP	SYS	POP	SYS	POP	SYS	POP
C	3	701	0	0	495	1,030,131	29	16,031	27	932,502	15	34,405	564	2,013,770
NC	5	631	0	0	345	63,694	12	2,394	6	1,199	1	100	362	68,018
NTNC	0	0	0	0	116	33,202	11	2,972	1	28	5	2,000	129	38,202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>1,127,027</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>21,397</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>933,729</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36,505</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>2,119,990</b>

The vast majority of NM’s population was served by community water systems such as the City of Albuquerque and the City of Santa Fe. It is important to understand that the community water systems have many more regulations and rules to follow in comparison to transient non-community water systems. Comparison of the data indicates that the general population people typically obtain the majority of water at a residence and would have an increased chance of any possible health risks from the home water supply, should it become contaminated, compared exposure risks at a transient water system.

### PWS Compliance with SDWA Requirements

Under the SDWA and the 1986 Amendments, EPA has set national limits on contaminant levels in drinking water to ensure that the water is safe for human consumption. These limits are known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels (MRDLs) and apply to all PWSs. For some regulations, EPA has established treatment techniques (TTs) in lieu of an MCL to control unacceptable levels of contaminants in water. The Agency also regulates how often PWSs monitor their water for contaminants and when they need to report the monitoring results to the states or EPA. Generally, the larger the population served by a PWS, the more frequent the monitoring and reporting (M/R) requirements become. In addition, EPA requires PWSs to monitor unregulated contaminants to provide data for future regulatory development; however, this report only includes violations pertaining to promulgated rules and regulations. Finally, EPA requires PWSs to notify their consumers when they have violated these regulations. The 1996 Amendments to the SDWA require consumer notification to include a clear and understandable explanation of the nature of the violation, its potential adverse health effects, steps that the PWS is undertaking to correct the violation, and the possibility of alternative water supplies during the violation.

All of the information described above must be tracked by the primacy agency for each PWS in the state/territory. NM uses the Safe Drinking Water Information System (State) (SDWIS/State), an automated database developed by EPA, to track inventory, sampling, monitoring and enforcement information. EPA also maintains the federal version of the database, SDWIS/FED. These databases are important tools which help states and EPA regions manage their drinking water programs and fulfill EPA reporting requirements. Primacy agencies are required to submit all this information to EPA on a quarterly basis and these databases facilitate that process. In accordance with EPA's *Guidance for States on Preparing Calendar Year 2017*, the DWB uses SDWIS/FED records of violations and the data retrieved from SDWIS/FED Reporting Services *Summary Annual Compliance* and Internal *Ad hoc* Reports to compile this document. NMED DWB utilizes SDWIS, but recognizes the platform requires further development to appropriately implement rule revisions such as the Lead and Copper Rule Revision.

This report, produced annually, provides a representation of the numbers of violations for the following categories: MCLs (includes MRDLs), TT, variances and exemptions (V/E), M/R, public notification (PN) and consumer notification (CN). Each category is described in more detail in the table below. This report provides the number of violations in each of these categories that were verified during 2023, typically organized by regulated contaminant type or by Rule and then further divided by violation type (MCL, TT, M/R, PN and CN).

Violation Type		Description
Maximum Contaminant Levels	MCL	Under the SDWA and State Drinking Water Regulations, federal and state governments both set limits on the level of contaminants in drinking water. These limits, called maximum contaminant levels, which also includes maximum residual disinfection levels, are established to ensure that the water is safe for people to drink. Each public water system is tested according to sample schedules to verify that no contaminants are above the prescribed limits. If a public water system test result exceeds an MCL, a violation has occurred.
Treatment Techniques	TT	In some cases, techniques to treat the water have been established in lieu of a MCL to control viruses, some bacteria, turbidity and total organic carbon. Filtration of surface water sources, such as reservoirs, rivers and lakes is an example of a water supply treatment technique. Each system is monitored to ensure that all required treatment technologies are properly designed, installed and operated. If a system fails to follow the required TT, a violation has occurred.
Variations and Exemptions	V/E	Variations and exemptions to specific requirements may be granted if a public water system cannot meet MCLs due to reasons beyond the system's control and there is no unreasonable risk to public health. Each exemption includes a schedule to bring the system into full compliance. If a system fails to meet the conditions outlined in the variance and exemption, then a violation has occurred. <b>During this reporting period, NM has not issued any exemptions or variations.</b>
Monitoring and Reporting Requirements	M/R	A public water system is required to periodically monitor the water quality to verify that MCLs are not being exceeded. If a public water system fails to take the required tests and/or fails to report the results of the tests to the primacy agency, then a violation has occurred.
Public Notification Requirements	PN	SDWA prescribes specific public notification requirements based on the potential of a violation to cause serious effects. When a water system fails to properly notify its customers, then a violation has occurred.
Consumer Notification	CN	Every community water system is required to deliver to its customers a brief annual water quality report. This report is to include some educational material, and will provide information on the source water, the levels of any detected contaminants and compliance with drinking water regulations. When a water system fails to produce this report a violation has occurred.

## Water System Violations

The following sections summarize the significant violations and the number of PWSs with reported violations that were verified during calendar year 2023. This includes violations that began before January 1st of the year and continued into the year covered by the report; violations that ended during the year covered by the report; and violations at a PWS that operated for only part of, or permanently ceased operations during the year covered by the report. If a system returned to compliance before the year covered by the report and remained in compliance throughout the year covered by the report, its violations are not counted.

All MCL and TT violations are included in this report; however, only those violations that are considered “significant” are reported for M/R, PN and CN categories. A significant M/R violation occurs, with rare exceptions, when no samples are taken, or no results are reported during a compliance period. A significant PN

violation occurs when a community water system fails to properly notify its users according to the procedures specified in the drinking water regulations. A significant CN violation occurs when a community water system fails to provide the required annual Consumer Confidence Report by the designated due date.

**Chemical Phase Rules (IOC, SOC, VOC)**

This series of rules are known as the Chemical Phase Rules and they define regulations for three contaminant groups: Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs), Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs), and Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs).

The Chemical Phase rules provide public health protection through the reduction of chronic risks from: cancer; organ damage; and circulatory, nervous, and reproductive system disorders.

They also help to reduce the occurrence of Methemoglobinemia or "blue baby syndrome" from ingestion of elevated levels of nitrate or nitrite. All public water systems must monitor for Nitrate and Nitrite. Community water systems and Non-transient non-community water systems must also monitor for IOCs, SOC, and VOCs.

**Inorganic Chemical (IOC) Contaminants**

PWSs are required to monitor fifteen (15) inorganic compounds such as fluoride, heavy metals and nitrate. Inorganic contaminants are metals, salts, and other compounds that do not contain carbon. These chemicals sometimes contaminate water supplies as a result of human activity; however, many are naturally occurring in certain geographic areas. The majority of the inorganic MCL contaminant violations in NM is suspected to be associated with naturally occurring sources; however, nitrate MCL violations are likely to have originated from anthropogenic sources such as septic disposal systems.

IOC Contaminant MCL Violations	MCL (mg/L)	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Arsenic	0.01	23	9	6*
Fluoride	4.0	18	0	6*
Nitrate-Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	10	5	2	2*
<b>Totals</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one MCL.

Inorganic Chemical Contaminants Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Arsenic	13	9	1*
Antimony, Total	1	1	0*
Asbestos	76	58	18*
Barium	1	1	0*
Beryllium, Total	1	1	0*
Cadmium	1	1	0*
Chromium	1	1	0*
Cyanide	1	1	0*
Fluoride	1	1	0*
Mercury	1	1	0*
Nickel	1	1	0*
Nitrate-Nitrite Routine Monitoring	12	10	2*
Selenium	1	1	0*
Sodium	1	1	0*
Thallium, Total	1	1	0*
<b>Totals</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>21*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one MCL.

### **Organic Chemical (SOC/VOC) Contaminants**

Organic chemicals are compounds that contain one or more carbon atoms. Sources of organic chemical compounds can be natural, such as from decaying vegetation, or anthropogenic. Organic chemicals that are regulated in drinking water typically come from industrial and agricultural activities and include substances such as components of pesticides and industrial and commercial products.

*There were no Maximum Contaminant Level violations or Monitoring & Reporting violations that were validated for Synthetic or Volatile Organic Chemical Contaminants for any Public Water System in New Mexico during 2023.*

### **Radionuclides Rule**

Radionuclide contaminants consist of radioactive particles such as radium-226, radium-228, gross alpha, and beta particle/photon radioactivity. The implementation of the Radionuclides Rule has significantly increased the total number of violations associated with radionuclide contaminants. These contaminants can occur naturally or may result from human activity. It should be noted that NM is geologically rich in naturally occurring radioactive uranium ore deposits such as those found in the San Juan Basin and the Pojoaque Valley.

Violation Code	Radionuclide Contaminant MCL Violations	MCL	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 02	Gross Alpha, Excluding Radon & Uranium	15 (pCi/L)	0	0	0*
Violation Code 02	Combined Uranium	30 (µg/L)	14	1	13*
Violation Code 02	Combined Radium (226 & 228)	5 (pCi/L)	2	0	1*
Violation Code 02	Beta/photon emitters**	4 (mrem/yr)***	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one MCL.

\*\*Most systems will never need to monitor for beta particle and photon radioactivity. These emitters generally come from nuclear facilities; commercial nuclear power plants; institutional sources such as research facilities, hospitals, and universities; and from industrial sources such as laboratories and pharmaceutical companies. Unless a system is vulnerable to this type of contamination, or is already contaminated by beta and photon emitters, systems are not required to monitor for these contaminants.

\*\*\* mrem/yr is defined as a Measure of radiation absorbed by the body

Radionuclides Rule Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Routine Monitoring	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one monitoring and reporting requirement.

### Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

On February 13, 2013, the EPA adopted the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). The new RTCR applies to **all** Public Water Systems (PWS) and was implemented on April 1, 2016. The NMED DWB received interim primacy of the RTCR on March 15, 2016, and final primacy on November 12, 2016.

In addition to requiring monitoring for coliform bacteria, the RTCR requires that seasonal public water systems conduct “start-up procedures” prior to opening for the year. Additionally, the RTCR requires that PWS conduct assessments when their system tests positive for coliform or E.coli bacteria.

Violation Code	RTCR MCL Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 1A	E.coli MCL (Violation Code 1A)	3	3	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one MCL.

Violation Code	RTCR Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 3A	Monitoring, Routine (RTCR)	228	122	13*
Violation Code 5A	Sample Siting Plan Errors (RTCR)	0	0	0*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>13*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one monitoring and reporting requirement.

Violation Code	RTCR Treatment Technique Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 2A	Treatment Technique, Level 1 Assessment (RTCR)	6	4	2*
Violation Code 2B	Treatment Technique, Level 2 Assessment (RTCR)	3	1	2*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one monitoring and reporting requirement.

### **Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR)**

The Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBP) applies to all PWSs that add a chemical disinfectant, except for transient water systems that use chlorine dioxide. This rule requires these water systems to monitor disinfection byproduct contaminants and disinfectants within the system. The DBP is a new and complicated rule that is proving to be difficult for PWSs to understand and maintain compliance.

The NMED DWB has assigned a Disinfection By-Products Rule Administrator to oversee the DBP rule for all systems across the state. This assignment has allowed the NMED DWB to implement this very complex rule consistently for all systems in New Mexico.

Violation Code	STAGE 2 DBP MCL Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 02	DBP2 MCL Violations	46	12	7
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>

Violation Code	STAGE 2 DBP Treatment Technique Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 12	No Certified Operator	0	0	0
Violation Code 46	Precursor Removal	12	2	2*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one treatment technique requirement.

Violation Code	STAGE 2 DBP Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 27	Routine Monitoring	294	259	7
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>7</b>

### **Surface Water Treatment Rule/Interim Enhance Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR/IESWTR)**

The Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) requires PWSs that are served by either surface water or ground water under the direct influence (GWUDI) of surface water to treat the water by filtration and disinfection in an effort to reduce the potential exposure to microbiological contamination. This rule applies to approximately forty-four (34) PWSs in NM.

The Surface Water Treatment Rule/Interim Enhance Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR/IESWTR) is designed to address the health risks from microbial contaminants without significantly increasing the danger from chemical contaminants. The IESWTR applies to PWSs that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI) as a source and serve ten thousand (10,000) or more people. This rule applies to approximately six (8) PWSs in NM.

The NMED DWB has assigned a Surface Water Rule Administrator to oversee all aspects of the SWTR & IESWTR for all Subpart H systems across the state. This assignment has allowed NMED DWB to implement these rules consistently for all Subpart H systems in New Mexico.

Violation Code	SWTR/IESWTR Treatment Technique Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 41	Treatment Technique (SWTR and GWR)	10	10	0
Violation Code 42	Failure to Filter (SWTR)	0	0	0
Violation Code 43	Single combined filter effluent – maximum turbidity value exceeded 1.0 NTU	7	7	0
Violation Code 44	Monthly combined filter effluent – 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile turbidity value exceeded 0.3 NTU	8	8	0*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one treatment technique requirement.



Violation Code	SWTR/IESWTR Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 36	Monitoring of Treatment (SWTR-Filter)	21	20	1*
Violation Code 38	Monitoring, Turbidity (Enhanced SWTR)	6	6	0*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one monitoring and reporting requirement.

### **Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)**

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) applies to all community and non-transient non-community water systems and requires them to monitor lead and copper to identify and minimize the risk of exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. If action levels are exceeded, the PWS may need to take steps and apply various TTs to minimize exposure such as installing corrosion controls, providing public education, treating the source water or replacing lead service lines. All the violations of the LCR were for the water system’s failure to monitor/report. Throughout the implementation history of this rule, very few PWSs in NM have been identified to have significant lead and copper action level exceedances. Most historical violations associated with this rule pertain to failing to meet the monitoring requirements.

The NMED DWB has assigned a Lead & Copper Rule Administrator to oversee the LCR rule for all systems across the state. This assignment will allow NMED DWB to implement this very complex rule consistently for all systems in New Mexico.

Violation Code	LCR Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 52	Routine Tap or Follow-Up Sampling (Violation Code 52)	17	13	4*
Violation Code 66	Lead Consumer Notice (Violation Code 66)	4	4	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one monitoring and reporting requirement.

### **Groundwater Rule (GWR)**

The Groundwater Rule (GWR) applies to all systems that use ground water as a source of drinking water, including systems that purchase groundwater and mix groundwater and surface water. The purpose of the rule is to reduce disease incidence associated with disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water. The rule

establishes a risk-based approach to target ground water systems that are vulnerable to fecal contamination. Ground water systems that are identified as being at risk of fecal contamination must take corrective action to reduce potential illness from exposure to microbial pathogens. NMED DWB participated in a GWR work group, that included EPA staff and NM service providers. The intent of the group was to identify issues and possible solutions for PWSs in New Mexico that struggle to comply with significant deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys. It is projected that small changes, such as adding a corrective action plan form to the report, will help address some of the 45 violations.

Violation Code	GWR Treatment Technique Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 45	Treatment Technique (SWTR and GWR)	211	111	35*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>35*</b>

Violation Code	GWR Monitoring & Reporting Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 34	Routine Monitoring	15	11	4*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4*</b>

**Public Notification Rule (PNR)**

All PWSs are required to notify its customers when: (1) the system fails to comply with drinking water regulations, (2) the system has a variance or exemption from drinking water regulations or (3) the system is facing some other situation posing a public health risk. Violations identified in this report are for PWSs that failed to properly inform their customers regarding one of these topics.

Violation Code	Public Notification Violations	# of Violations	# Return to Compliance Violations	# of PWSs in Violation
Violation Code 75	Failure to provide proper public notification linked to a drinking water regulation violation	290	165	35*
Violation Code 76	Failure to provide proper public notification not linked to a drinking water regulation violation	13	13	0*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>35*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one public notification requirement.

**Consumer Confidence Report Rule (CCR)**

All community water systems are required to prepare and provide their customers with an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR summarizes the quality of the drinking water and any violations. It also

includes some educational material, provides information on the source water, the level of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water regulations. These violations persist each year until every CCR is prepared properly and provided to the consumers of the PWS. The NMED DWB has assigned a Consumer Confidence Rule Administrator to oversee the CCR rule for all systems across the state. This assignment will allow NMED DWB to implement this rule consistently for all systems in New Mexico.

<b>Violation Code</b>	<b>Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Violations</b>	<b># of Violations</b>	<b># Return to Compliance Violations</b>	<b># of PWSs in Violation</b>
Violation Code 71	Failure to provide CCR	78	53	25*
Violation Code 72	Inadequate Reporting of CCR	17	10	7*
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>32*</b>

\*A single water system could violate more than one CCR requirement.

### **Summary of Violations**

All of the violations presented in this report are summarized in the following table.

Summary of NM Public Water System Violations												
Contaminant Type or Rule	MCLs			Monitoring and Reporting			Treatment Technique			Public Notification and Consumer Confidence Reporting		
	# of Violations	# of RTC Violations	# PWS in Violation	# of Violations	# of RTC Violations	# PWS in Violation	# of Violations	# of RTC Violations	# PWS in Violation	# of Violations	# of RTC Violations	# PWS in Violation
IOC	46	11	14*	113	89	21*						
RAD	16	1	15*	3	3	0						
SOC	0	0	0	0	0	0						
VOC	0	0	0	0	0	0						
<b>Contaminant Sub-Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29*</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>21*</b>						
RTCR	3	3	0*	228	122	13*	9	5	4*			
SWTR/ IESWTR				27	26	1*	25	25	5*			
LCR				21	18	4*	0	0	0			
DBP1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
DBP2	46	12	7*	294	259	7	12	2	2*			
GWR*				15	11	4*	211	111	35*			
CCR										95	63	32*
PN										303	178	35*
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36*</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>50*</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>46*</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>67*</b>

## **Conclusions**

The NMED DWB has continued to issue a significant number of violations in 2023, consistently implementing drinking water regulations throughout the state. In 2023, three hundred eighty-nine (389), or approximately 36%, of Public Water Systems (PWSs) received at least one violation, resulting in a total of one thousand seven hundred eighty-four (1,784) violations reported for New Mexico.

Fifty (50), or approximately 4.5%, of the PWSs in New Mexico had health-based violations of a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Of these health-based violations, eighteen (18) PWSs had twenty-two (22) chemical or radionuclide MCL violations, and three (3) PWSs had three (3) Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) MCL violations.

Two hundred eleven (211) PWSs had a total of seven hundred one (701) Monitoring and Reporting (M/R) violations, accounting for approximately 39% of the total number of all violations. Eighty-three (83) PWSs had two hundred fifty-seven (257) Treatment Technique (TT) violations, accounting for 14% of the total violations. One hundred thirty-two (132) PWSs had three hundred ninety-eight (398) Public Notification (PN) violations, accounting for 22% of the total number of violations. Additionally, one hundred twelve (112) PWSs had ninety-five (95) Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) violations, accounting for 5% of the total number of violations.

Although the DWB has continued to make significant progress with compliance determinations, the program is struggling to ensure that core functions are being met. The lack of adequate funding to maintain minimal staffing levels and our ability to ensure that that the program can function at a basic level continue to be significant challenges. While the numbers in this report continue to show progress with compliance actions such as the issuance of violations, the DWB is not able to fully dedicate resources to other important issues such as potable reuse, emerging contaminants, enforcement actions, utility operator recruitment, retention, and training, and small systems compliance. In many cases, DWB staff are required to cover responsibilities for multiple programmatic functions to meet basic programmatic needs.

The NMED DWB also continues to be significantly understaffed for the amount of work that is expected of the program. With the federal regulatory determinations over the past several years on the disinfection byproduct rules, revised total coliform rules, lead and copper rule revisions, proposed consumer confidence rule revisions

and now PFAS regulatory determinations, the overall resources required to effectively implement these rules have exponentially increased over the years; however, the federal grant dollars have not kept pace with those resource requirements. Additionally, in New Mexico, almost 80% of our community water systems serve populations of less than 1,000 people. These small community water systems are often disadvantaged and underserved and require a significant amount of assistance from our drinking water program to achieve and maintain compliance with increasingly stringent drinking water regulations. Lastly, states are managing a significant increase in overall workloads due to additional factors such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding through the State Revolving Fund programs while facing retirements of technical staff and trained operators, putting states in the unreasonable and unsustainable position of being forced to do more with less. While the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has had a positive impact on our ability to keep pace with increasing programmatic costs, the lack of adequate long-term funding is expected to be problematic, exacerbating our current staffing and resource challenges. The continued trend of insufficient funding for core programmatic functions continues to be one of the biggest challenges for New Mexico's Drinking Water Program.