# Otis MDWCA 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

## Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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 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 (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

Otis MDWCA draws water from 3 groundwater source wells identified as Well #2, Well #4 and Well #5 identified as the Colwell Well.

## Source water assessment and its availability

For a copy of the Source Water Assessment please contact David Torres (NMED) at

505-259-5048

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:  
microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

Please contact Cutter Rogers at:   
manager@otiswater.com  
BUS - Business 575-236-6351  
FAX - Facsimile 575-236-6252  
MOB - Mobile 575-361-5501

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

* Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
* Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
* Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
* Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
* Water plants only when necessary.
* Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
* Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
* Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
* Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

* Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
* Underground lawn sprinkler system
* Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
* Additional source(s) of water on the property
* Decorative pond
* Watering trough

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

* Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
* Pick up after your pets.
* If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
* Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
* Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
* Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

**Consumer Confidence Report Violation**

We failed to complete, submit and certify our 2019 Consumer Confidence Report to NMED and our consumers/water users, we anticipate returning to compliance upon completing, and submitting the 2019 CCR to NMED, our water consumers /users and submitting certification back to NMED.

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

**What is being done?**

We are working to complete the Consumer Confidence Report for 2019 to submit to NMED and provide it to our consumers and users.

**FOR LEAD AND COPPER NON-SAMPLING VIOLATION**

Our water system violated drinking water requirements during 2017-2019. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2017-2019 we did not monitor for lead and copper and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples will be taken.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contaminants** | **Required sampling frequency** | **Number of**  **samples required** | **Number of**  **samples collected** | **Date sampling**  **should have been done** | **Date follow-up**  **samples taken or will be taken** |
| Lead and Copper | Every 3 years | 20 | 0 | 2017-2019 | 2023 |

**What is being done?** The Otis MDWCA plans to collect the proper Copper and Lead samples at the next sampling period coming up during June 2023 to September 2023.

**FOR NOT COLLECTING MONTHLY TOTAL COLIFORM (RTCR) SAMPLE**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During March 2019 one of our Samples was labeled incorrectly and the lab. could not count the sample for compliance at that location, therefore we did not complete all monitoring requirements for Total Coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

**What does this mean?**

Our water system is required by law to collect a monthly total coliform sample. During this reporting period, we did not collect the required sample.

**What happened? What is being done?** During March 2019 one of our samples was labeled incorrectly and the lab. could not count the sample for compliance at that location.

The Otis MDWCA collected a sample in April of 2019 and returned to compliance.

**Date that system collected next valid routine sample:**

The Otis MDWCA collected a sample in April of 2019 and returned to compliance.

## Significant Deficiencies

## Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

## A routine sanitary survey conducted on (June 28, 2018) by Jessica Gutierrez with the New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau (NMED DWB) found the deficiencies below in our water system.

## (001A), Major modifications not approved. This Significant Deficiency remains to be corrected.

## (001K), Inadequate surface construction or missing appurtenances at Well #4. – Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

## (002T), Cross connection is present at Treatment Plant- Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

## (001E), Poor housekeeping of system facilities. Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists. Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

## (001D), Appurtenances associated with source not protected from elements. Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

## (004B), Lack of an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

## (004C), Inadequate or lack of an Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M). Corrected, Significant Deficiency no longer exists.

Otis MDWCA is working with Technical Assistance Provider Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) to assist in addressing the remaining issues listed above.

## Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Otis MDWCA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

## 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.

### Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

| **Contaminants** | **MCLG or MRDLG** | **MCL, TT, or MRDL** | **Detect In Your Water** | **Range** | | **Sample Date** | **Violation** | **Typical Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Low** | **High** |
| **Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products** | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .5 | .5 | .5 | 2019 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | .83 | .803 | .83 | 2019 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .72 | .72 | .72 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 3.5 | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Radioactive Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 4.2 | 1.5 | 4.2 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 50 | 4.6 | NA | NA | 2017 | No | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles. |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | .19 | .19 | .19 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Uranium (ug/L) | 0 | 30 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

| **Contaminants** | **MCLG** | **AL** | **Your Water** | **Sample Date** | **# Samples Exceeding AL** | **Exceeds AL** | **Typical Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | .25 | 2016 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 2 | 2016 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

| **Unit Descriptions** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| ug/L | ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| pCi/L | pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| **Important Drinking Water Definitions** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| MCLG | MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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. |
| MCL | MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | 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 | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| MRDL | 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. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

| **For more information please contact:** |
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