



## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Calendar Year 2017 City of El Paso IL2030150

**This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.**

**This report includes drinking water facts, information on violations and contaminants detected in your drinking water supply during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017. Each year, we will provide you a new report. If you need help understanding this report or have general questions, please contact the person listed below.**

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

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We want our customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more please feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. City of El Paso council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at the El Paso City Hall located at 125 West Front Street, El Paso, Illinois.

Before we begin listing our unique water quality characteristics, here are some important facts you should know to help with a basic understanding of drinking water in general.

### **Sources of Drinking Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

The source for our system is ground water. The City of El Paso obtains its water from a confined aquifer at a depth of about 110 feet. Five wells are placed around the aquifer. Three of these wells are located at 301 W. Front Street, well #3 is located at Third and Central Streets, and well #4 is located near the west end of Eighth Street.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **Other Facts about 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

### **Source Water Assessments**

Source water protection (SWP) is a proactive approach to protecting our critical sources of public water supply and assuring that the best source of water is being utilized to serve the public. It involves implementation of pollution prevention practices to protect the water quality in a watershed or wellhead protection area serving a public water supply. Along with treatment, it establishes a multi-barrier approach to assuring clean and safe drinking water to the citizens of Illinois. The Illinois EPA has implemented a source water assessment program (SWAP) to assist with wellhead and watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please contact City Hall at 527-4005 or our water department at 309-527-4265. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

To determine El Paso's susceptibility to contamination, a Well Site Survey, published in 1992 by the Illinois EPA, was reviewed. Based on the information contained in this document, twenty-one potential sources of groundwater contamination are present that could pose a hazard to groundwater pumped by the El Paso community water supply wells. These include three vehicle sales, one grain elevator, two above ground petroleum storages, seven below ground storages, one store sales, one machine shop/shed, one chemical handling, one hardware store, two commercial application or warehousing of pesticides, one animal feed and supplies, and one fertilizer retail sales. The Illinois EPA has determined that El Paso wells #1, #2, and #3 are not susceptible to IOC, VOC, or SOC contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the well, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and the available hydrogeologic data for the well. In anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the City of El Paso water supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based upon evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions, there is a hydrogeologic barrier that restricts pathogen movement, all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected, monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak, and the sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. However, having stated this, the U.S. EPA is proposing to require States to identify systems in karst, gravel, and fractured bedrock aquifer systems as sensitive. Water systems utilizing these aquifer types would be required to perform routine source water monitoring. Because the facility's wells are constructed in a confined aquifer, which should provide an adequate degree of protection to prevent the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in the vulnerability determination.

## 2017 Regulated Contaminants Detected

The next several tables summarize contaminants detected in your drinking water supply.

Here are a few definitions and scientific terms which will help you understand the information in the contaminant detection tables.

AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
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.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.
N/A	Not Applicable
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L) - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Coliform Bacteria	MC LG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Number of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> MCL	Total No. of Positive <i>E. coli</i> or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
	0	MCL: presence of coliform bacteria in > 5% of monthly samples (for systems that collect 40 or more samples/month). > 1 positive monthly sample (for systems that collect < 40 samples/month).	0	Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

## Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level (ALG) : The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper								
	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	1.3	1	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2017	0	15	3.8	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

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. The City of El Paso 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>.

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines	12/31/17	1.2	0.7-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)	2017	7	6.77 – 6.77	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some of the results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	2016	7	7.33-7.33	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some of the results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection date	Highest level detected	Range of levels detected	mclg	mcl	units	violation	
Barium	1/27/15	0.026	0.026-0.026	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes: Discharge from metal refineries ; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	1/27/2015	1.09	1.09-1.09	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits: Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	1/27/2015	0.02	0.02-0.02		1.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	1/27/2015	5	5-5	150	150	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2017	2	1.5-1.5	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks , sewage ; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	01/27/2015	160	160-160			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	01/27/2015	0.851	0.851-0.851	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	01/27/2015	0.366	0.366-0.366	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate	08/11/2009	0.61	0.61-0.61	0	6	Ppb	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

### Violation Summary Table

We are happy to announce that no monitoring, reporting, treatment technique, maximum residual disinfectant level, or maximum contaminant level violations were recorded during 2017.

