



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 99TH AIR BASE WING (ACC)
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE NEVADA

30 June 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE

FROM: 99 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and is distributed to Nellis Air Force Base (NAFB) as our communication to you, the consumer. This effort is accomplished in accordance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) which was passed by Congress in 1974. The drinking water on the installation has been tested and certified as safe to drink. The information in this report is a snapshot of calendar year 2024 drinking water quality at NAFB.

The purpose of the SDWA is to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The SDWA was amended in 1996 requiring states to develop and implement source water assessment programs that can evaluate existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water. Systems are required to delineate the sources of public drinking water, identify any potential contamination sources, assess the water system's susceptibility to contamination, and inform the public of the results annually with the CCR.

If you are interested, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Board of Directors meets the third Thursday of odd-numbered months at 9 a.m. in the board chambers in suite 799 of the Molasky Corporate Center. The meetings are also broadcast live on the SNWA homepage, www.snwa.com.

If you have any questions, SNWA wants to assist you. You can reach them by phone at 702-258-3215 or find more ways to contact them at www.snwa.com/about/contact-us/index.html.

Drinking Water Sources

Ninety percent of NAFB's drinking water comes from the Colorado River and is supplied by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). The water in Lake Mead begins as snowmelt in the Rocky Mountains and arrives via the Colorado River. The Las Vegas Wash also carries storm water and treated wastewater into Lake Mead, which accounts for less than 2% of all the water in the lake. The Virgin River and Muddy River also combine to provide approximately 1.5% of the water in Lake Mead. Lastly, the water NAFB receives from the SNWA is supplemented by a small percentage of groundwater from wells on and near the installation. The source of the well water originates from the Las Vegas Valley Aquifer.

All the water drawn from Lake Mead is sent to the Alfred Merritt Smith or the River Mountains water treatment facilities. As it arrives, the water is treated with chlorine and ozone to kill any potentially harmful microscopic organisms. A multistage filtration system is then used to remove particles from the water. As the water leaves the water treatment facility, additional chlorine is added to protect it on the way to the consumer. The water is also treated to prevent corrosion of the pipelines.

The remaining 10% of NAFB's water comes from two Air Force owned wells. Water from the base wells is chlorinated by the 99th Civil Engineering Squadron's (CES) Utilities Section and mixed with the SNWA water as it enters the base. CES Utilities maintains a staff of well-trained professionals who operate and maintain the system daily.

Lead and Copper Rule

In your system, the 90th percentile of results from our Lead and Copper monitoring program were below the action level for the presence of lead and copper.

The Lead and Copper Rule requires us to test water inside a representative number of facilities that have plumbing most likely to contain lead and/or lead solder to determine the presence of lead and copper. The EPA has set an action level for lead at 15 parts per billion (ppb) in 10% or more of the samples (called the 90th percentile). This means that if lead concentration in a water supply is at 15 ppb or more in 10% or more of the samples taken, action needs to be taken by the public water system, including investigating the possible cause and/or implementing corrosion control treatments to reduce lead levels. Levels of lead in the drinking water supply are well below this level.

How does lead get into water?

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The EPA cites brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and kitchen/bath fixtures with lead solder as the most common source, as they can allow lead to enter the water, especially hot water. In addition, lead service pipes can sometimes corrode, causing lead to get into the water supply. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. Southern Nevada's water infrastructure does not employ lead service lines or other lead-based components, and local water providers maintain robust corrosion-control programs developed in coordination with the NDEP.

How can I minimize the potential of exposure to lead in tap water?

When your faucets have gone unused for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested by a private laboratory. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

What about copper?

In addition to being naturally present in the environment, copper can work its way into water from copper pipes in household plumbing. The action level for copper is triggered at 1.3 parts per million (ppm) in 10% or more of the samples. Copper levels in the drinking water supply remain well below those considered a possible health concern. If water hasn't been used for more than six hours—overnight, for example—you can clear copper from the tap by letting the cold-water faucet run for 30 to 60 seconds.

Monitoring and Analysis

Every month, technicians from SNWA collect and analyze water samples from the NAFB drinking water system and water treatment facilities. The water is tested at a higher frequency and more extensively than the SDWA and the Nevada Administrative Code requires. The test results are shown in the table accompanying this report.

Additionally, NAFB routinely monitors for disinfectant residual in the distribution system. This measurement tells us whether the installation is effectively disinfecting the water supply. Disinfectant residual is the amount of chlorine present in the water distribution system pipes.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or by visiting water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm.

Potentially present contaminants in untreated source water include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff and industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential use.
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic or volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, as well as common sources like: gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of industrial activities.

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and where do they come from?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, food packaging, and

cookware. They are also contained in some fire-fighting foams used to extinguish petroleum fires.

Is there a federal or Nevada regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

Yes. On April 26, 2024, the EPA published a final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This rule went into effect on June 25, 2024, with a compliance deadline of April 26, 2029. While the rule requires routine sampling for certain PFAS by no later than 2027, the DoD has been sampling drinking water for PFAS compounds at all DoD-owned and operated water systems since 2017. Under the new rule, the following limits, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL), were established, and the DoD water systems will need to meet these levels by April 2029. For systems where the DoD provides drinking water, the Department is collecting the necessary sampling information and is taking actions to ensure compliance within the required 5-year timeframe.

Has Nellis AFB tested its water for PFAS?

Yes. In July & October 2023 and January & April 2024 samples were taken from the 6B Rate of Flow Control Station, which is where water from the SNWA enters the base. Also, samples were taken from the two base wells in July 2023 and January 2024. Results from these tests were below the MCL for all 6 PFAS compounds covered by the EPA drinking water rule. The water system will be periodically resampled as required by the EPA PFAS drinking water rule to ensure continued compliance.

Other Health Information

While the EPA requires water agencies to monitor for approximately 90 regulated contaminants, the City of North Las Vegas goes above and beyond to monitor for approximately 30 additional, unregulated contaminants. One unregulated contaminant that is closely monitored is cryptosporidium. This naturally occurring organism found in many U.S. source waters can cause gastrointestinal distress. The EPA now requires larger water systems that treat surface water to assure removal of cryptosporidium. The Southern Nevada water system monitors and tests for cryptosporidium in both its source and treated water supplies. Ozonation, used at both SNWA regional water treatment facilities, is among the most effective processes for destroying microorganisms such as cryptosporidium. The Southern Nevada Water Authority's Microbiology Laboratory is among the few municipal facilities certified by the EPA for cryptosporidium and giardia detection.

Treatment Process

The SNWA has advanced water treatment facilities designed to provide clean and safe water.

Ozone

Implemented in 2003, ozonation destroys bacteria and other microorganisms through an infusion of ozone, a strong disinfectant. Since it does not stay in the water very long, chlorine is added to protect the water while it's in the distribution system.

Chlorination

Chlorination is the addition of chlorine to drinking water systems. It is the most common type of drinking water disinfection, killing bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that cause disease. Chlorine is effective and continues to keep water safe as it travels through pipelines to the consumer's tap.

Do I need to take special precautions?

No, in most cases. However, 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) or on the EPA's website www.epa.gov/safewater.

Frequently Asked Questions**Is my tap water safe to drink?**

Yes, your tap water meets and surpasses all SDWA standards and is safe to drink. Also, the Alfred Merritt Smith Water Treatment Facility has been recognized by the National Partnership for Safe Water for its efforts to ensure Southern Nevada's municipal water meets these water quality standards. Water samples are taken from the NAFB water distribution system monthly and analyzed to ensure safety. Additionally, in December 2022 NDEP conducted a sanitary survey of NAFB and concluded the drinking water system and infrastructure met the state's requirement to deliver safe drinking water to the consumer. This survey is accomplished every three years.

If tap water is really of good quality, why does it taste the way it does?

The taste of water can be affected by naturally occurring minerals or by the chlorine that is used to keep the water safe from bacteria. It is important to remember that quality is best measured by the concentration of contaminants in the water. For NAFB, we have very few contaminants in our drinking water and those present are well within SDWA limits.

Do I need to use a water treatment system or drink bottled water?

No, unless you wish to improve the taste of your water or remove the minerals causing it to be considered "hard." While many people prefer the taste of bottled water, tap water is subject to more stringent quality standards and is monitored and tested more frequently. Additionally, the cost of the average liter of bottled water is more than 1,000 times the same amount of tap water. For more information on bottled water quality, call the International Bottled Water Association at 1-800-WATER11 (1-800-928-3711) or by visiting www.bottledwater.org.

How will I be notified if a significant health risk associated with my water quality develops?

This report notifies the consumer of routine and non-emergency compliance violations. However, certain emergency situations, such as a water main break, may warrant more active communication efforts, such as additional publications, postings in public places, mass-mailings, or working through other well-established mass-notification systems.

Additional Information and Input

If you would like a copy of this report or have questions, please contact the 99 ABW Public Affairs office at 702-652-2750, 99ABW.PA2@us.af.mil. Questions and comments can also be mailed to the 99 ABW Public Affairs office at: 99 ABW/PA, 4430 Grissom Ave, BLDG 11, St 107 Nellis AFB, NV 89191. The most current source water assessments are available at the BE office for the NAFB wells, and through SNWA for the water that is provided by SNWA.

For additional information on the quality of your water, call SNWA at 702-862-3400 or go to the SNWA website at http://www.snwa.com/wq/water_quality.html. Information on Nevada's Safe Drinking Water Program is available from the NDEP at 775-687-4670. Also, contact BE at 702-653-3316 or usaf.nellis.99-mdg.list.99-omrs-sgpb-all-personnel@mail.mil.

General information for drinking water can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Water Quality Data Tables

The table associated with this report (see next page) lists the drinking water contaminants detected. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the tables are from testing completed in the 2024 calendar year. The EPA and the State requires NAFB to monitor contaminants at a different frequency because some concentrations do not change frequently.

JASON J. GLYNN, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Nellis AFB Consumer Confidence Report Table, 2024