



Animas River and San Juan River below the Animas Confluence Exposure and Risk Dashboard September 20, 2016

Risk Levels – This dashboard addresses potential contaminant exposure pathways and risks for the Animas River corridor in New Mexico, and the San Juan River corridor downstream of the Animas confluence to the Navajo Nation border. This evaluation is based on current monitoring data and will be updated in the future, as necessary, if new data becomes available.

Safe	Use Caution	Unsafe
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Potential Exposure Pathway	Risk Level	Explanation
Public Drinking Water Supplies		Public drinking water supplies in the river corridors covered by this dashboard are subject to multiple protective requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and are presently safe for all uses. These requirements include; infrastructure construction standards, solids settling and treatment, disinfection, treated water testing, and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) inspections.
Private Domestic Wells		Private domestic wells are not subject to the protective requirements of the federal SDWA. Many private wells were not constructed in a sanitary manner or have deteriorated as the well has aged. These wells are at risk of contamination by bacteria, parasites, or viruses. High levels of manganese, iron, sulfate, and total dissolved solids existed in some wells prior to the Gold King Mine (GKM) spill. Elevated lead has been detected in private water systems that have galvanized steel plumbing components or lead solder. Following the GKM spill NMED tested more than 600 private domestic water wells in San Juan County, NM. There is no evidence that the GKM spill contaminated any water wells in New Mexico. NMED and the New Mexico Bureau of Geology continue to monitor private domestic wells for evidence of mining and milling contamination.
River Water for Domestic Supply		Untreated river water should never be used for domestic supply, even if there are not visible signs of contamination. When untreated water is consumed from surface sources there is a risk of ingesting harmful bacteria, parasites, or viruses. Untreated river water also may contain high levels of lead and arsenic during periods of high turbidity such as when storm events stir up contaminated river sediments.

River Water for Irrigation		River water presently complies with all standards for irrigated agriculture.
Crops		Crops will be tested for heavy metal content by New Mexico State University during the 2016 growing season to ensure that they are safe for consumption by humans and livestock.
River Water for Livestock		River water presently complies with all standards for livestock watering.
Livestock		The New Mexico State Veterinarian, New Mexico Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and local veterinarians are on the alert for any signs of unusual animal distress or illness that could result from the GKM spill or other mining and milling contamination.
River and Ditch Sediment		Sediment that is heavily contaminated with heavy metals exists in Colorado and has the potential to migrate into New Mexico. NMED is monitoring sediment contamination in New Mexico to identify any hot spots that exceed residential risk screening levels. This monitoring is ongoing as contaminated sediment can migrate during times of high river flow. Anyone who observes discolored sediment within or near the Animas or San Juan Rivers in New Mexico should notify NMED immediately by calling 1-800-219-6157.
Fish		Fish tissue test results in the Animas River, and in the San Juan below the confluence with the Animas, show that heavy metals are within guidelines for human consumption. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will continue to monitor and test fish to ensure that they remain safe for consumption. The "Quality Waters" of the San Juan River below Navajo Lake are located upstream from the confluence with the Animas River and were not affected by the GKM spill or by other mining and milling waste discharges into the Animas River.
Recreational Activities		Mining and milling contaminants do not presently pose hazards to people enjoying water sports, fishing and other recreational activities in and near the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. However, both rivers may contain bacteria, parasites, or viruses which could pose a health hazard to people who come into contact with river water. It is recommended that people wash thoroughly after going in the river, and avoid swallowing river water when swimming or doing water sports.

For more information on these watersheds, please visit www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org

For more information on public drinking water systems, please visit Drinking Water Watch <https://dww.water.net.env.nm.gov/NMDWW/>