



## Graham County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Drawer B ♦ 9 West Center Street ♦ Pima, Arizona 85543  
Phone (928) 485-2451 ♦ Fax (928) 485 9491 ♦ www.gce.coop



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### Ash Creek Community Water System System# AZ0405007 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2025

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's **Annual Water Quality Report**. Our goal is to keep you informed about the high-quality water and reliable service we have delivered over the past year. Our mission has always been, and continues to be, providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Our water comes from **groundwater**. Based on current information about the hydrogeological conditions and nearby land uses around our drinking water sources, the **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality** has assigned our system a "**low risk**" designation. This means that most source water protection measures are already in place, or that the hydrogeology of the area makes additional measures unlikely to have a significant impact.

We draw water from **two wells**, located just west of the Cluff Ranch Wildlife Area. The water is **chlorinated** and pumped into a **20,000-gallon storage tank** on-site.

**Graham County Electric Cooperative** routinely monitors constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The accompanying table shows the results of monitoring conducted between **January 1 and December 31, 2025**.

As water moves over the land or through the ground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of these constituents. The presence of these substances **does not necessarily pose a health risk**.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, you may call the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

Graham County Electric Cooperative is proud to report that our drinking water is **safe and meets all Federal and State requirements**.

In the following table, you may notice terms and abbreviations that are unfamiliar. To help you better understand this information, the definitions below are provided:

- **Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L):** One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years, or one penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L):** One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per Trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per Liter (ng/L):** One part per trillion equals 1,000 parts per billion.
- **Parts per Quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per Liter (pg/L):** One part per quadrillion equals 1,000 parts per trillion.
- **Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **No Detect (ND):** The contaminant was not detected or was present at a level below the laboratory's detectable limit.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as feasible to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contamination Level Goal or "MCLG"** means 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.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or "MRDL"** means 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.
- **Maximum Residual disinfectant level Goal:** The Level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

## TEST RESULTS

| Contaminant                | Violation<br>Y/N | Running Annual<br>Average (RAA)<br><u>OR</u> Highest<br>Level Detected | Range of<br>all Samples | MCLG | MCL    | Likely Source of Contamination  | Date<br>Tested  |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|------|--------|---|-----------------|
| GROSS ALPHA (pCi/L)        | N                | ND   | ND                      | 0    | 15     | Erosion of natural deposits   | Feb. 2019       |
| Combined Radium<br>(pCi/L) | N                | ND   | ND                      | 5    | 5      | Erosion of natural deposits   | Feb. 2019       |
| Copper (ppm)               | N                | 90th percentile<br>=.0037  | ND-.073                 | 1.3  | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems;<br>Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from<br>wood preservatives  | July<br>2025    |
| Lead (ppB)                 | N                | 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile<br>=3.1                                    | 3.1-<5                  | 0    | AL=15  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems,<br>Erosion of natural deposits   | July<br>2025    |
| Nitrate (ppm)              | N                | ND   | ND                      | 10   | 10     | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic<br>tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits  | Jun. 2025       |
| Arsenic (ppb)              | N                | 4.5  | 4.5                     | 10   | 10     | Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from<br>orchards, runoff from glass and electronics<br>production wastes  | Oct.<br>2022    |
| Barium (ppb)               | N                | 30   | 30                      | 200  | 200    | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal<br>refineries; Erosion of natural deposits   | Oct.<br>2022    |
| Fluoride (ppm)             | N                | 2.1  | 2.1                     | 4    | 4      | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which<br>Promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer<br>and aluminum factories                                     | Dec.<br>2022    |
| Sodium (ppm)               | N                | 230  | 230                     | 3000 | 3000   | Erosion of natural deposits   | Jan 2024        |
| Chromium (ppb)             | N                | ND   | ND                      | 100  | 100    | Discharge from steel and pulp mills;<br>erosion of natural deposits   | Oct.<br>2022    |
| HAA5 (ppb)                 | N                | ND   | ND                      | 60   | 60     | By-products of drinking water chlorination  | July.<br>2025   |
| TTHM (ppb)                 | N                | 17.4   | 17.4                    | 80   | 80     | By-products of drinking water chlorination  | July<br>2025    |
| Chlorine (ppm)             | N                | .33  | .19-.46                 | 4    | 4      | Water additive used to control microbes   | Monthly<br>2025 |
| MERCURY (ppb)              | N                | .25  | .25                     | 2    | 2      | Inorganic mercury compounds are<br>the most common forms of mercury<br>found in drinking water. Organic<br>mercury compounds are rarely found<br>in drinking water. | Oct 2022        |

|            |   |    |    |  |        |  |           |
|------------|---|----|----|--|--------|--|-----------|
| PFAS (ppt) | N | ND | ND |  | 2 ng/l |  | Sept 2024 |
| PFOS (ppt) | N | ND | ND |  | 2 ng/l |  | Sept 2024 |
| PFOA (ppt) | N | ND | ND |  | 2 ng/l |  | Sept 2024 |
| PFBS (ppt) | N | ND | ND |  | 2 ng/l |  | Sept 2024 |

Lead and copper samples have been taken in 2025. Nitrite samples were taken in 2025. These are the most current test results and were done in compliance with current regulations.

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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, are byproducts 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 cost 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. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Graham County Electric Cooperative is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by Oct 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be viewed online at <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/AshCreekWC-AZ>. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

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. Graham County Electric Cooperative 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, or 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 [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

We at Graham County Electric Cooperative work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Josh Bryce 928-485-8653 or Ethan Estes at 928-485-8667. You may also find real-time information about our water system at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Drinking Water Watch website at <https://azdewis.azdeq.gov/DWW>. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. They are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Please call for the time and to make an appointment if you would like to attend.