

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DONALD PAUL HODEL, Secretary
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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TABLE 4.--U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels for selected chemical constituents in drinking water, and number of wells that equaled or exceeded levels

Constituent	Environmental Protection Agency maximum contaminant levels for drinking water		Number of wells that equaled or exceeded levels
	Primary	Secondary	
Phenols-----		1 µg/L	7
Arsenic (As)-----	50 µg/L		17
Barium (Ba)-----	1,000 µg/L		0
Cadmium (Cd)-----	10 µg/L		2
Chloride (Cl)-----		250 mg/L	40
Chromium (Cr ⁺⁶)-----	50 µg/L		0
Copper (Cu)-----		1,000 µg/L	0
Fluoride (F)-----	¹ 1.8 mg/L		31
Iron (Fe)-----		300 µg/L	30
Lead (Pb)-----	50 µg/L		1
Manganese (Mn)-----		50 µg/L	26
Mercury (Hg)-----	2 µg/L		1
Nitrate nitrogen (N)-----	10 mg/L		1
Sulfate (SO ₄)-----		250 mg/L	32
Zinc (Zn)-----		5,000 µg/L	0
Dissolved solids-----		500 mg/L	66

¹Maximum level is adjusted according to mean maximum daily air temperature (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1977). For 64.3°F, at Inyokern (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1983), the limit is 1.8 mg/L.

In 1985 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed maximum contaminant levels for nine organic priority pollutants for public water supplies (U.S. EPA, 1985). The proposed maximum contaminant levels pertain to organic compounds that are carcinogens or present a health hazard. The proposed maximum contaminant level is 5 µg/L for the following eight contaminants: benzene, carbon tetrachloride, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethylene, p-dichlorobenzene (not analyzed for in this study), tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane. The proposed maximum contaminant level for vinyl chloride is 1 µg/L.

The concentrations of all 27 selected organic pollutants were less than the detection limit of 3 µg/L used for these analyses in all wells except 26S/40E-22B1, -22H3, and -22P4. Well 26S/40E-22B1 contained three organic pollutants--chloroform, chloroethylene, and trichloroethylene (TCE)--at concentrations of 12.0, 6.0, and 94.0 µg/L, respectively. The concentration of trichloroethylene in this well exceeded the EPA proposed maximum contaminant level of 5 µg/L for drinking water. Well 26S/40E-22H3 contained vinyl chloride at a concentration of 7.9 µg/L, which exceeds the proposed maximum contaminant level of 1 µg/L. Well 26S/40E-22P4 contained methylene chloride at a concentration of 4.0 µg/L. No maximum contaminant levels have been proposed for methylene chloride, chloroform, and chloroethylene.

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GROUND-WATER DATA FOR INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

KERN, INYO, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, 1977-84

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