Changes May Be Coming to Your Bottled Water Service: 3 Things You Need to Know

QUICK SUMMARY ▼

In October 2019, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) will submit a report to NDEP that wraps up 15 years of scientific studies focused on evaluating groundwater contamination from the Anaconda Copper Mine site. These studies help advance our mission to protect public health while cleaning up the site using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. It also means difficult decisions could be made by NDEP about bottled water services.

Your bottled water service from ARC will most likely be phased out if you live outside the area of affected groundwater. No final decisions have been made, but it's important to plan ahead to avoid surprises.

Keep reading for details on what to expect and how to prepare.

1 Studies show that many domestic wells north of the Anaconda site are unaffected by mine pollution

NDEP experts have independently reviewed 15 years of groundwater data and will be making decisions on the extent of the plume boundary at the end of the year. We now have a picture of affected groundwater north of the mine, which will help us make science-based decisions about bottled water service and cleanup options. **See page two for a map of affected groundwater and domestic wells north of the Anaconda site.**

What this means for you	If you live outside the groundwater plume, it means your well is unaffected by the Anaconda site. Your well may still have high levels of uranium that occurs naturally in this portion of Mason Valley. Many well owners throughout the state take precautions to make sure their water is safe to use.

2 If approved by NDEP, Atlantic Richfield Company may phase out parts of its bottled water service, but it must follow 4 criteria

You may be receiving bottled water from ARC at the request of NDEP even though your well is unaffected by the Anaconda site. Because we cannot hold ARC responsible for issues unrelated to the Anaconda site, ARC will likely begin phasing out the bottled water program for most residents. To make sure this process is fair and transparent, we are requiring ARC to use four criteria to determine if it's acceptable to end your service. You can read all four criteria on our website at **ndep.nv.gov/land/abandoned-mine-lands/anaconda-home.**

When to expect changes	Bottled water may begin to be phased out sometime between December 2019 and January 2020.

3 You may have options for alternative drinking water

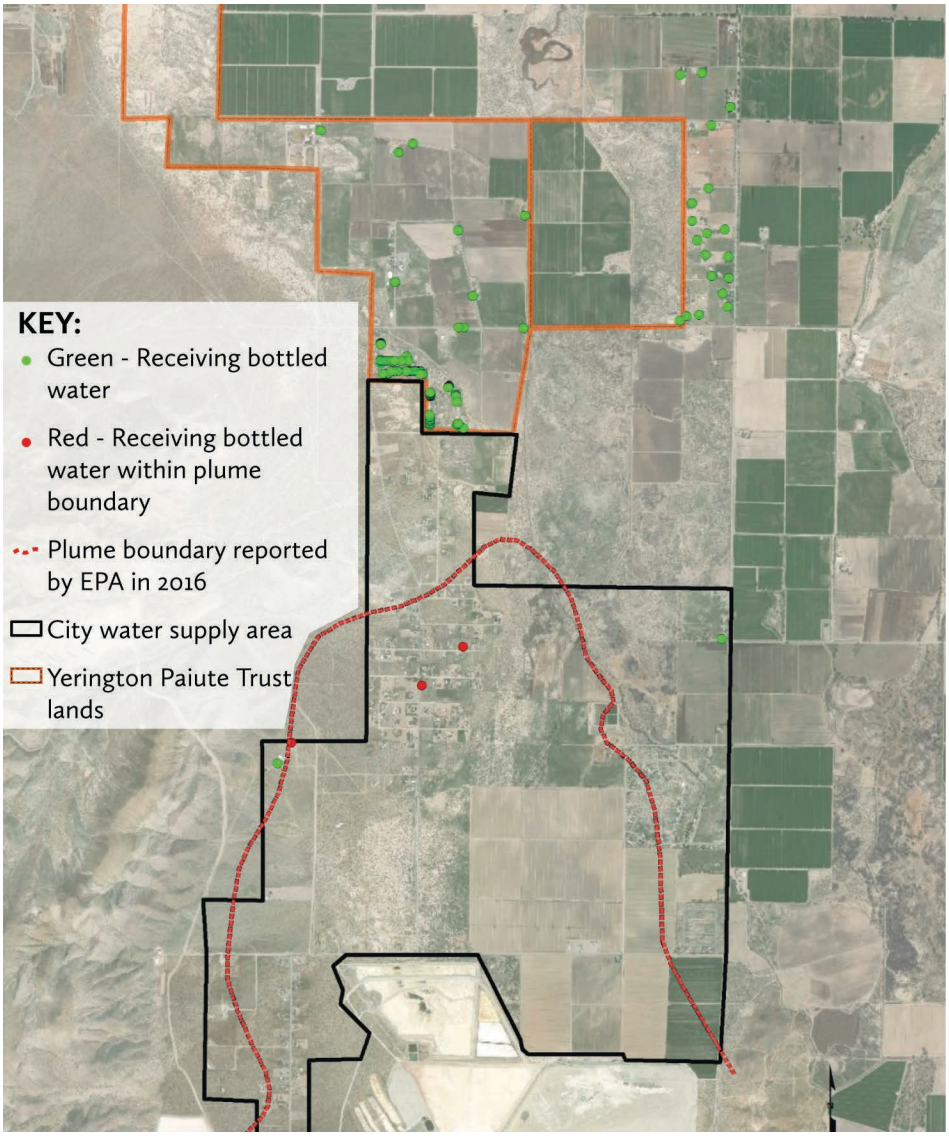
If you're concerned about the quality of your well water, we encourage you to begin exploring drinking water alternatives. NDEP can't guarantee that treated water is available in your area, but our staff are available to help you explore your options.

A few options to explore

- Home water treatment systems.
- Treated water from a source nearby.
- Municipal water available in the area.
- Collaborating with neighbors and community leaders to extend treated water service in the future.

Why was bottled water provided in the first place?

NDEP officials and residents have long been concerned about safe drinking water north of the Anaconda site. When investigations began 15 years ago, we didn't have enough information to know the extent of contamination from the site. To play it safe, ARC began offering bottled water to any residents with elevated uranium levels until more scientific data became available. Our goal was to protect the community while we gathered more data to make an informed, fact-based decision.



IMPACTED WATER AND YOUR BOTTLED WATER SERVICE

An EPA-approved report from 2016 shows the extent of affected groundwater north of the Anaconda site. Your bottled water service will most likely be phased out if you live outside the plume.

- **Attend a community meeting.** Visit the website below for details.
- **Contact NDEP staff** by calling (775) 687-9368 or emailing acms@ndep.nv.gov

Learn more online

For full reports and information on the Anaconda Site, go online at **ndep.nv.gov/land/abandoned-mine-lands/anaconda-home.**