The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established national regulations and guidelines for the quality of water provided by public water systems. The regulations are either primary or secondary. The primary regulations are enforceable either by the Environmental Protection Agency or by the States; in contrast, the secondary regulations are not federally enforceable. The secondary regulations are intended as guidelines for States to follow in setting their own regulations for public water systems. The regulations express limits as "maximum contaminant levels," where contaminant means any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that may render water unsuitable for human consumption or industrial use.

Primary drinking-water regulations limit contaminants in drinking water that may affect human health. Secondary drinking-water regulations limit contaminants in drinking water that have been shown to affect human health. Secondary regulations apply to contaminants that affect esthetic quality. The maximum contaminant level for barium in public water supplies is 1,000 micrograms per liter. In 1978, water samples that were analyzed for barium contained 0.1 microgram per liter at mile 3.1. The maximum contaminant level for barium in public water supplies is 1,000 micrograms per liter. East of Elden Mountain, water in the Supai Group contained 2,520 milligrams per liter of dissolved solids, and the chemical composition was overlie the Supai, water samples that were analyzed for barium contained 0.1 microgram per liter. The concentration in water from wells generally exceeds the recommended limit.

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