

AFFIDAVIT

The State of New Mexico

County of Bernalillo

I, Paul Pino of Bernalillo, NM,  
(name) (county) (state)

**MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:**

In addition to my family history of using rain water for drinking and cooking, many people have given me information about how they use/used rain water for drinking and cooking, even in the town of Carrizozo and even when they had indoor plumbing.

It is difficult for many people to print out documents and venture out during the pandemic to get forms notarized, so I will include their statements here so they will not be lost.

Below are informal rain water use statements by New Mexican's regarding use of rain water for drinking and cooking.

Compiled. 10-13-20

1. We had a cistern to collect rain water. The rain water was used more for drinking because it was more precious. We used well water to wash clothes. Two pails of rain water, drinking water, were placed on the counter in the kitchen and it was not to be used for anything else besides drinking or cooking. Sometimes we would sneak rain water to wash our hair and face as it made our hair feel real soft. Rain water was precious. We used well water to bath all the kids (all the kids used them same bath water, none was to be wasted). We ate lots of beans and they were always cooked in rain water because it improved the taste. My mother died of bone cancer, my brother died of stomach cancer, my sister has survived thyroid cancer, and my other sister has survived brain tumors twice. Nora Pino, 8 miles east of Carrizozo
2. Just let me know what you need me to do Paul. We hauled cistern water my entire life from my Uncle George's. We have a cistern now and still drink the rain water. That guy has no idea what he is talking about!!! Barbara Roper, Ancho area.
3. We always had a cistern where rain water was stored when it came down the gutters and through a pipe into the first holding cement enclosure usually filled with rocks/ large gravel for filtration, then into the deep cistern for holding. We'd lower a pail on a rope to bring up the pails of water which were taken into the kitchen. They were used for cooking and drinking & that water tasted so good compared to the hard water from the well! The hard water from the well was used for washing clothes, cleaning the house, bathing, etc. Our ancestors before also had the same system at the older house, so rain water was always used for cooking and drinking. I have survived thyroid cancer. Margie Pino Hobby, 8 miles east of Carrizozo
4. Mom used to keep a small tub outside, close to the house, to catch rain water even when I was a kid. She said rain water is the best water for cooking beans. This was all the way into the 1960's and I recall Aunt Minnie Martinez did the same thing, religiously. Mom and Aunt Minnie both learned this from growing up at the ranch in Carrizozo. They were both alive and living in Carrizozo and Tularosa at the time. Mary White, raised in Tularosa, living in Las Cruces.

5. We have a cistern at my grandma's house where I was raised we used rain water to drink and cook. Only well water was used for bathing and washing. Isidro Peralta, Peralta ranch, 15 miles east of Carrizozo, near Capitan.
6. At grandpa's house rain water went to cistern.....no filters at all and we used the rain water for everything. Randal Thomas, Albuquerque
7. At Silva ranch drank water from cistern between kitchen and sleeping building. Gail Silva. Between Carrizozo and Capitan.
8. My family's experience was identical to Nora Pino's account. Living on the ranch, water was precious. We also had a cistern catching rain water from the roof. As you well know many of our relatives have passed away from cancer. Frank Silva, 7 miles west of Capitan
9. My grandmother had a metal trash can that she collected rain from. also would catch the rain from the rain gutter so what landed on peoples roofs and gutters was collected in the trash can, they cooked with that, and drank that water. My mother died of bone cancer. Gina Gabaldon, Carrizozo
10. When we lived in Carrizozo before moving to the Sanchez Place in Nogal Canyon we used water out of the tap. Carrizozo had city wells and there was piping to most of the homes and businesses in Carrizozo. I don't remember my mom or dad collecting rain water to use. At the Sanchez Place in Nogal Canyon we had a well from which we piped the water to the house. The well was not very deep maybe at most 25 feet and it was very close to the Nogal Canyon Creek. Again I don't remember my mom or dad collecting rain water to use. George Sanchez, Carrizozo and Nogal Canyon about 10 miles east of Carrizozo.
11. Of course they drank rain water! My Dad's family lived maybe 30 miles from the site near Claunch. They only had cistern water to drink! The government never admitted to anything until way later. They were told an ammunition dump blew up. Donna Wells Ortiz, raised in Carrizozo, lives in Albuquerque.
12. I would drink half a gallon of cool well water when it was available. Many homes in Lincoln County drank rain water that had been collected from the radioactive roofs of our houses. Our Grandmothers always loved to cook with soft rainwater. The US Government never warned the NM Population that this water was contaminated with potentially lethal amounts of radionuclides. I lived there since Trinity Day one, and for several years after just like all our extended Family and Friends. Richard Ortiz, raised in Carrizozo, lives in Wyoming.
13. There are cisterns at ole homesteads all over Lincoln County. The roofs of the homes had gutters that sent the water to the cisterns. The cisterns provided water to the folks exactly like Paul Pino outlines. A large bucket on a rope....or a hand pump brought the water upward to the user..... then the water was used in a very cautious manner, it was considered a blessing and was not wasted. That precious water was rationed and treated like "gold" ..... It was used in the bean pot, the stew pot, the soups .... and rationed out to the family in a very cautious and important way. These cisterns downwind from the Atomic Bomb test became contaminated, and the government simply published a lie that no harm would come to the 'downwinders" , the government also published articles in the newspapers, and the government put flyers around the areas, and downwind from the Bomb Site stating that now harm was done. And, the result was that many many families died of cancer. The government simply turned their backs on the folks who asked for compensation. Note: a few of the folks that have experienced cancer..... and who have had the resources to fight the government have received compensation. But, the government keeps this quiet and continues to turn their backs on victims of this terrible situation. Note no. 2 In Nevada, the govt. has finally given in to some extent, and has paid compensation to those folks who have pursued the compensation..... but this is continued to be kept quiet in New Mexico. (check it out for yourself).

So.... cattle, horses, persons, gardens , soils, etc. were contaminated and that's a fact.....that's the truth.... but the govt. simply spins around, walks away and ignores this fact. Second and third generations die from cancer, and that's a fact. There is a group of folks called THE DOWN-WINDERS who are trying their best at exposing the facts, but are having hell gettin it done .....THE GOVERNMENT IS HARD TO DEAL WITH. Russel Burris, Capitan

14. My great grandfather was Benino Peralta Gallegos, his wife was Estefana Pino. Oma (grand mother in Dutch) Estefana Pino Gallegos was my Great grandmother. My grandmother Nellie Pino Gallegos Guevara was the oldest living child, her mom was Estefana Pino. I knew my Great grandma Estefana Pino til I was 5 years old and spent much time on the "Flats" below the Indian Divide toward Carrizozo, I remember a well with grapes growing by any overflow of water from the tank close to the ranchito. I brushed Oma Estefana's long white hair and she loved me with Agappe love.  
My Oma Nellie and all her sibilings died of cancer, except Aunt Dorothy Gallegos Silva. Oma Nellie's sibilings were: Uncle Joe Gallegos, settled in Bent going down the mountain form Ruidoso to Tularosa; Aunt Virginia Gallegos Duran settled in Tularosa; Aunt Julia Gallegos Reyes settled in Capitan. Mama, Maxine Guevara Spencer was raised alot on her grand parents ranch on the flats. Mama was Grandpa Benino and Oma Estefana's oldest grandchild.  
When I was a child growing up on my Oma Nellie's ranch in Capitan on the Indian Divide we used cistern rainwater drawn from the red hand pump in the kitchen for everything. The coldest most delicious tasting water I have ever tasted. When Mom, Maxine, born in 1932, was growing up on Oma Nellie's ranch all they used was the cistern at the time of the bomb. Mama died of cancer.  
Tia Kika Silva Peralta and one of her sisters that know of, died of cancer as a young parent. They lived on the south side of the Tucson mountains, north of the Indian Divide and northeast of the Ruidoso Sierra Blanca mountains. Tia Kika's daughter Gino had cancer and beat it. My cousin Christina Martinez who was raised by Tia Kika in the Tucson's died of cancer. I was a nurse for 39 yrs have always believed we had an extraordinarily high death toll in the area I was raised in. I feel the loss of loved ones from cancer deaths which directly related to living within the testing range of White Sands and the bomb. Cousin Deb Blanchard. The Gallegos ranch is 8 miles east of Carrizozo, the Indian Divide is about 6.3 miles west of Capitan.
15. Paul, I did some checking. The Padilla's (in Carrizozo) used rain water all the time to cook with, bathe, etc. Fran Altieri. Carrizozo. Freddie Padilla has cancer now.
16. My Tia Kikka Silva Peralta used cistern water. She had a very big garden and lots of fruit trees. She survived breast cancer but most of her children died from cancer. I used to walk to her place and fill two gallon jugs with water to cook beans. Janice Silva Burris. About 7 miles west of Capitan.
17. While mama is now gone, I can remember how she told of rain being collected when she was growing up. It was used for cooking. She praised it for washing hair, too. It was precious. As children when we used to visit the ranch in Carrizozo, I remember the bucket of drinking (rain) water on the counter. We drank from it with a tin cup. Virginia (Ramirez) Miller, 8 miles east of Carrizozo.
18. I can also write about my experience as late as the 1980's of walking a mile to my great-aunt's house with an empty milk jug in each hand so we could have "good" drinking water at home. We would hand pump the water from her rainwater cistern from her kitchen sink. Jaylen Ware, approximately 8 miles west of Capitan.
19. Rain ran off roof into tank, faucet into house for drinking and cooking. Water out of dirt tank to bathe. Tip Ward, Silver City

STATE OF New Mexico

COUNTY OF Bernalillo

SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME,

on the 16 day of October, 2020

Signature [Redacted] (Seal)

Notary Public

My Commission expires: 05/24/2022

[Redacted Signature]

(Signature of person making the statement)



OFFICIAL SEAL  
DAMIAN DORADO  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW MEXICO

My commission expires 05/24/2022