

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Town of Bernalillo Water System had a level of Arsenic above Drinking Water Standards at Municipal Well 4 for the Third Quarter (Q3/11) of 2011

Based on a Running Annual Average (RAA) the Town has violated a drinking water standard for the third quarter of the reporting year. Although it is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The Town routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The averages of testing results from **four quarterly** routine arsenic samples indicate that the system did not meet the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic. The MCL for arsenic in public water systems is 0.010mg/L (10ppb). This MCL was exceeded in an average of arsenic samples collected from Municipal Well 4. A sample collected on **July 11, 2011 was 19ppb, (above the standard of 10 ppb)** placed the Running Annual Average (RAA) for four quarters at 21ppb. However, a sample collected on November 18, 2011 placed the system back into compliance with the regulation. The following summarizes the data used to the Running Annual Average (RAA):

March 8, 2011-8ppb

May 24, 2011-9ppb

July 11, 2011-19ppb

November 18, 2011-5ppb

****A subsequent sample was taken upon notification of the violation on December 13, 2011 with a result of 5ppb.**

The New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water failed to provide timely notification of the violation to the Town of Bernalillo. For this reason you are only now receiving such notification in January, 2012, six months after the violation.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative water supply, such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns, or have a compromised immune system, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened and what is being done to correct the problem?

The arsenic in our water is from erosion of natural deposits.

The Town of Bernalillo attributes the July 11, 2011 violation of the arsenic standard to operator error. It appears that the temporary arsenic treatment system was not activated at the time the Drinking Water Bureau sampled our system. ****A subsequent sample was taken upon notification of the violation on December 13, 2011 with a result of 5ppb.** Current Town system operators continuously monitor the temporary system to ensure proper function.

In May, 2010 the Town began to test the use of ferric chloride with a temporary feed system. Currently, ferric chloride is the sole water treatment process used in the water treatment system. **All test results since May, 2010 indicate that the arsenic levels in the treated drinking water are below the required standard. The construction project for the installation of a permanent treatment system is currently 25% complete with an estimated final date of April 1, 2012**

Quarterly sampling by the Drinking Water Bureau will continue for at least two consecutive quarters, if results are reliably and consistently below the MCL, sampling will be reduced to triennial monitoring. The Town continues to monitor arsenic on a monthly basis.

Please share this information with all anyone you may know who drinks this water, especially those who may have not received this notice directly. You may also post this notice in any public place or in your own business establishment, or you may distribute copies to whomever you wish. This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Bernalillo, water system #NM3508923. Questions may be addressed to Maria Rinaldi, Interim Administrator, Director of Community Development and Capital Programs at (505)867-3311 or mrinaldi@townofbernalillo.org.

This public notice has been posted on www.townofbernalillo.org, in Town Hall, and has been mailed to all municipal water users.

_____ María Rinaldi, Interim Administrator, Director of Community
Development and Capital Programs

January 12, 2012