

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

## **Town of Bernalillo Water System had a level of Arsenic above Drinking Water Standards at Municipal Well 3.**

Based on a Running Annual Average (RAA) the Town has violated a drinking water standard for the second 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 3. A sample collected on **April 3, 2013** placed the Running Annual Average (RAA) for four quarters at 11ppb. The following summarizes the data used to determine the Running Annual Average (RAA):

July 19, 2012-0.0061mg/L

November 27, 2012-0.016mg/L

March 20, 2013-0.011mg/L

April 03, 2013-0.011mg/L

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

### **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 Town of Bernalillo attributes the exceedance of the arsenic standard to our failure to adjust the treatment level to a seasonal the water demand. **Subsequent samples taken by the Town**

**are below the required standard of 10ppb(0.010mg/L).** Town system operators continuously monitor the system to ensure proper function.

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 daily 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](mailto:mrinaldi@townofbernalillo.org).

This public notice has been posted on [www.townofbernalillo.org](http://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, June 13, 2013,