

# **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 (Q3/10) of 2010**

Based on a Running Annual Average (RAA) the Town has violated a drinking water standard for the Third quarters 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 arsenic sample collected from Municipal Well 4 for the Q3/10 quarter. The sample collected on **August 26, 2010** places the Running Annual Average (RAA) for the third quarter at 28ppb. The following summarizes the data used to the Running Annual Average (RAA):

December 1, 2010 – 37 ppb

March 16, 2010 – 9.8 ppb

April 27, 2010 – 59 ppb

August 26, 2010 – 8.1 ppb

### **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. A treatment process used during three of the quarters that make up the Running Annual Average failed to consistently treat the water to meet the drinking water standard. In April of 2010, the New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau approved a corrective action plan for the addition of ferric

chloride to supplement and/or replace the electroflocculation system (aluminum coagulant) that was being used to treat the water.

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, have and continue to, indicate that the arsenic levels in the drinking water are below the required standard.

Additionally, the Town submitted the final report and recommendation for permanent modification for the sole use of ferric chloride to the New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau and received approval for such on November 29, 2010. The Town is now negotiating engineering services for the design of permanent ferric chloride systems to be constructed.

The Town of Bernalillo will continue to distribute and post this Public Notice every three months as long as an MCL exceedence persists.

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, Director of Planning and Community Development 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, Us Post Office and has been mailed to all municipal water users.



\_\_\_\_\_ Maria Rinaldi, Director of Planning and Capital Programs

December 20, 2010