

Town of Bernalillo

Office of the Mayor Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN OF BERNALILLO IS PUMPING IRON IMPLEMENTS FIRST STAGE OF WATER TREATMENT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN - INJECTION OF FERRIC CHLORIDE

Today, April 15, 2010, the Town of Bernalillo began the injection of Ferric Chloride into its water treatment process in a continued effort to bring arsenic levels within federally mandated standards.



On March 29, 2010, the Drinking Water Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department approved the use of Ferric Chloride to augment and/or replace the current electro flocculation treatment system for the removal of arsenic at municipal wells 3 and 4. The addition of Ferric Chloride was proposed by Wilson & Company, an engineering firm

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retained by the Town to prepare a corrective action plan. The plan was in response to violations the Town received when arsenic levels exceeded the maximum contaminant level for arsenic in drinking water.

Ferric Chloride is a coagulant commonly used in the industry for the removal of arsenic and was recommended in previous engineering studies commissioned by the Town. The injection system is automatically activated when the well pump is operational and Ferric Chloride is now being injected at a rate of 1-5mg/l (milligrams per liter). The Town has also installed a cartridge filter, not unlike those on home filtration systems, to monitor particulates that might break through the filtration system.

Initial samples will be submitted to an independent testing lab tomorrow morning. The first sample results are anticipated within two weeks.