

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Office of Mayor Jack Torres, Town of Bernalillo**  
**Tuesday, April 6, 2010**  
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**Bernalillo, New Mexico.....** New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau approves Corrective Action Plan for arsenic treatment at Bernalillo wells

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 as a coagulant was proposed by Wilson & Company, an engineering firm retained by the Town to prepare a corrective action plan. The plan was in response to violations the Town received for exceedence of 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 Town will proceed with implementation of the Corrective Action Plan that also includes a change of filtration media at well 3 from zeolite to anthracite/sand. To monitor particulates that might break through the filtration system, the Town will install a cartridge filter, not unlike those on home filtration systems. The Town may also consider the removal of backwash decant water from the process stream to minimize the aluminum hydroxide breakthrough currently occurring in the treatment system.

The results of the implementation of the Corrective Action Plan will be used by the Town to determine if modifications should be made to the proposed system for arsenic removal at municipal wells 1 and 2, currently designed using electro flocculation and microfiltration.

On April 5, 2010, the Town made the decision to suspend the arsenic treatment project for municipal wells 1 and 2 until such time as results are available from tests to be performed at well 4 as part of the Corrective Action Plan. Municipal wells 1 and 2 have been off line since 1992.

“In the interest of public safety, the Town has decided to take a step back and concentrate resources on correcting the deficiencies at the wells currently providing our drinking water”, said Mayor Jack Torres. “It is premature to proceed with a system that is currently not consistently removing arsenic to an acceptable level “, he stated.

A copy of the Town of Bernalillo Corrective Action Plan is attached to this release.