

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Arsenic in Socorro Water System Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Quarterly samples for arsenic are taken for the Socorro Water System. The running annual average for arsenic samples taken from the sampling point denoted as the Springs Treatment Unit, the School of Mines Treatment Unit, and the South Industrial Park Well during the four quarters of 2009 exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL).

What should you do?

- You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

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 is being done?

City of Socorro is currently contracted with Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. to engineer two arsenic treatment facilities. One treatment facility will be located adjacent to the South Industrial Well and the second treatment facility will be located adjacent to the Evergreen Tank which stores flow from the Socorro and Sedillo Springs. Arsenic removal will take place using a coagulation/granular filtration process in which arsenic is removed by taking advantage of its natural affinity for iron. The arsenic treatment system will also include chemical feed system, back wash water recovery and recycling, solids handling equipment and disinfection system.

The probable total project cost of two Arsenic Treatment Facilities is \$4.52 million. This cost includes construction, professional service and an allowance for electrical power improvements at the Springs Treatment Facility. City of Socorro is currently looking for funding with USDA Rural Development and New Mexico Environmental Department Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

For more information, please contact Dixie Daniels at (575) 838-1606 or ddaniels@socorronm.gov.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people with apartments, nursing homes, school, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

The Socorro Water System is sending this notice to you.

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