

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

SYSTEM NAME: Cottonwood Municipal Water PWS # 13-106

Well Site 6-2

The Level of Arsenic Exceeded the Drinking Water Standards

The level of arsenic in wellsite 6-2 in the Cottonwood Municipal Water System PWS#13-106 recently exceeded the drinking water standard. The level of exceedance is not considered to be an emergency, but as our customer it is important that you are aware of the situation, what you should do if anything and what steps have been taken to correct the problem. The city currently samples and tests quarterly for the presence of arsenic as required by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The current standard for arsenic in drinking water is 10 parts billion (ppb), which was formerly 50 ppb prior to 2006. The level of arsenic in the sample collected and analyzed in the first quarter of 2019 was 21.3 ppb. Because the level of arsenic in the initial sample exceeded the 10 ppb standard, a second sample was collected and analyzed to confirm the initial sample and the level of arsenic in the second sample was 1.4 ppb. The average level of arsenic in these two samples was 11 ppb, which is down from the 14 ppb average arsenic level in the previous quarterly sample. As an additional precaution the city collected two additional samples to further monitor the level of arsenic in this system. ADEQ's mandatory Monitoring Assistance Program (MAP) also sampled the well during the quarter. The level of arsenic measured in these three samples were 8.2 ppb, 2.7 ppb and 11.35 ppb for an average of 7.4 ppb. As required by ADEQ, the city calculates the running average of the level of arsenic measured in the four previous quarters. The running average annual level of arsenic for the last three quarters of 2018 and first quarter of 2019 was 7.4 ppb, which is well below the 10 ppb standard for drinking water.

What should you do?

You DO NOT need to do anything at this time and you do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. There is no immediate health risk. If there was an immediate health risk, you would have been notified immediately and instructed on what steps to take in order to prevent any serious health risks from occurring. It has been reported that some people drinking water with arsenic levels in excess of the current standard of 10 ppb for many years may experience skin irritations, circulatory problems and an increased risk of cancer. If you should have specific health concerns, it is recommended you consult your personal physician.

What steps have been taken to correct the situation?

The city investigated and determined the resin bead media used for removing arsenic was exhausted and in need of replacement. On January 27 and 31, 2019, the resin bead media and internal vessel appurtenances were replaced. The city will continue to test this site quarterly as required and you will continue to receive these notifications until the running annual average is reliably and consistently below the 10 ppb standard.

For more information, please contact Roger Biggs at (928) 634-0186 ext. 3307 or via email at rbiggs@cottonwoodaz.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 in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Cottonwood Municipal Water VV6
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