

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**SYSTEM NAME: Cottonwood Municipal Water PWS # 13-025**

**Well Site 8-9**

## **The Level of Arsenic Exceeded the Drinking Water Standards for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020**

The City of Cottonwood currently samples and tests quarterly for the presence of arsenic as required by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The city also calculates the running average concentration of arsenic in the four previously collected quarterly samples, as required by ADEQ. The current standard for arsenic in drinking water is 10 parts billion (ppb). Prior to January 2006, the arsenic standard in drinking water was 50 ppb.

The level of arsenic in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for wellsite 8-9 in the Cottonwood Municipal Water System PWS# 13-025 was 11 ppb, which is above the standard. The running annual average level of arsenic for the four samples collected and analyzed in 2020 for this wellsite is at 10.5 ppb, which is above the 10 ppb standard. The city will continue to test quarterly as required and send out notifications to its customers until the running annual average is reliably and consistently below the 10 ppb standard. The level of arsenic exceedance for this wellsite 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.

### **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 added additional treatment vessels online in an effort to reduce the arsenic levels. The city also ordered a replacement arsenic system for well 8-2, which has been off line for the past year and expects delivery and installation of that treatment system to occur in May. With well 8-2 offline, well 8-9 has been pumping significantly more water than usual, which may be contributing to the slightly elevated levels of arsenic. Bringing 8-2 back on line should help reduce the elevated levels of arsenic. A new arsenic treatment system for well 8-9 has been budgeted for next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2021. The city is also implementing an enhanced monitoring and testing protocol for this wellsite in an effort to be more proactive and to ensure the protection of its customers.

For more information, please contact Roger Biggs at (928) 634-0186 ext. 3307 or via email at [rbiggs@cottonwoodaz.gov](mailto:rbiggs@cottonwoodaz.gov). This notice is being sent to you by Cottonwood Municipal Water CW1 Public Water System ID#: AZ-04-13025 Date distributed: February 2021

*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.*