



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Tests Show Arsenic in the Douglas Water

January 5, 2010

As outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Douglas Public Water System is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis and notify its customers of any contaminants and exceedances in the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL).

In Calendar year 2009, water delivered by the Douglas water system to its customers was pumped from two wells with an arsenic level of 17 parts per billion (Well 7 located on 11th Street & H Ave) and 30 parts per billion (Well 14 located at Hwy 80 & Copper Drive) which does not comply with the current Arsenic MCL of 10 parts per billion.

While the water delivered by the City of Douglas does not meet the Safe Drinking Water Standard for arsenic it does not represent an immediate health risk and there is no need to use an alternative water supply (bottled water). The long-term exposure to arsenic via drinking water causes cancer of the skin, lungs, urinary bladder, and kidney as well as other skin changes such as pigmentation changes and thickening.

Arsenic is an element found naturally in rocks, water, plants, and animals. It is also used by industries as a wood preservative and in the manufacturing process of paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals and semi-conductors.

In August 2008, the City's Arsenic Evaluation Report was completed in an effort to assist the City in developing strategies that would enable the City of Douglas to achieve full compliance with the current (new) arsenic standard in calendar 2009 while applying the most efficient and effective technology while minimizing the cost to the City of Douglas water customers.

In October 2008, the city completed the drilling of a new water production well (Well 16) that will replace one of the existing water wells with high levels of arsenic. Well 16, is in the equipping stage and is scheduled to be operational by this spring.

Test results are available for public review with the City of Douglas, Public Works Department, located at 425 10th Street, Douglas, Arizona. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Carlos A. De La Torre, Public Works Director/City Engineer at (520) 417-7329.