

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

SYSTEM NAME: Cottonwood Municipal Water PWS # 13-106

Well Site 8-2

The Level of Arsenic Exceeded the Drinking Water Standards for 4th Quarter 2019

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 current standard for arsenic in drinking water is 10 parts billion (ppb), which was formerly 50 ppb prior to 2006. The city also calculates the running annual average level of arsenic for the four previously collected quarterly samples, as required by ADEQ.

The level of arsenic in the 4th quarter for wellsite 8-2 in the Cottonwood Municipal Water System PWS#13-106 was 4.2 ppb, which is well below the standard. The running annual average level of arsenic for the four samples collected and analyzed in 2019 for this wellsite, however, is at 11 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 immediately pulled wellsite 8-2 out of service after the last quarterly violation and only recently put the well back into service after working with the arsenic treatment system manufacturer to identify and implement viable solutions to the elevated arsenic levels experienced this past year. As stated previously, the level of arsenic in the 4th quarter for this wellsite was 4.2 ppb, which is well below the 10 ppb standard. 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. This notice is being sent to you by Cottonwood Municipal Water VV6 Public Water System ID#: AZ-04-13106 Date distributed: November 2019

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.