

## CRRUA Customer Message

Date: 06/28/2024

### CRRUA’s Voluntary Testing Finds One Water Treatment Facility Testing Slightly Higher for Arsenic: Swift Response Resolved the Issue Quickly

In its latest voluntary testing for arsenic, the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) reports that samples CRRUA took from one of its treatment facilities as part of its voluntary self-testing practice exceeded the federal limit for arsenic on the day the water sample was collected. Quick response by CRRUA returned the facility back into compliance within hours.

According to the state certified lab that conducted the tests, the sample taken at the Santa Teresa Industrial Plant on June 11, 2024, tested at 13 parts per billion (ppb.) The federal limit is 10 ppb. Field tests taken on June 12, 2024, showed the arsenic level at 12 ppb. Immediate adjustments were made and within hours the arsenic level dropped to 8 ppb.

“We discovered this isolated exceedance through voluntary self-testing and were able to act swiftly and effectively,” said CRRUA Executive Director Juan Crosby.

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Crosby said a water well that was offline for repairs was introduced back into the system. “When water is reintroduced into the system, the previous treatment formula must be modified. So, when the well returned to service, facility operators used field test kits to test the water.” He said the operators initiated additional chemical adjustments and within hours, the arsenic level dropped to acceptable levels.

“Our self-governance practice of voluntary testing is paying dividends,” Crosby said. “We go beyond what is required through voluntary self-testing to ensure we are providing consistent high-quality water.”

Crosby said even though the test results are from a lab certified by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED,) because the tests are voluntary, they will not adversely impact CRRUA. Only the quarterly tests conducted by NMED count towards compliance. CRRUA does however, report the results of its voluntary tests to NMED.

Crosby said CRRUA’s voluntary testing for arsenic as a self-governance practice also serves as honest, open communication with customers.

“When I took over as CRRUA interim executive director this past January, I vowed full transparency, regardless of the circumstances,” said Juan Crosby. “It is to honor that commitment that we report this test result and how we resolved the matter to help restore customer trust and confidence.”

Sample Location	Sample Result (ppb)	Arsenic MCL 10 (ppb)
Arsenic Treatment Facility (ATF)		
Sunland Park (ATF)	8.2	Below MCL
Santa Teresa Community (ATF)	7.2	Below MCL
Santa Teresa Industrial Park (ATF)	13.0	Above MCL
Border Entry (ATF)	Excluded	N/A

CRRUA operates four arsenic treatment facilities and in January 2024 initiated voluntary twice monthly testing at all plants. Last month, CRRUA excluded the Border Entry facility from its voluntary twice monthly testing due to its continued meeting of all NMED requirements. This month, CRRUA went to monthly voluntary testing for the same reason.

CRRUA passed the previous six arsenic tests, including one conducted by NMED.

A video on the arsenic removal process is available on the CRRU YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@crrua\\_info](http://www.youtube.com/@crrua_info)