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Date: 05/15/2025

First Follow-up Arsenic Test Completed

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) completed the first of two follow-up tests of an arsenic treatment facility (ATF) that slightly exceeded the federal limit for arsenic in CRRUA's voluntary monthly test for April 2025.

Follow-up test results for the Santa Teresa Industrial ATF were 12 ppb, which matched the 12 ppb in the April 2025 test. Results are from Eurofins Environment Testing; an independent water lab certified by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) from samples taken on May 6, 2025.

CRRUA also conducted follow-up testing at the two ATFs that passed the April 2025 testing. The Sunland Park ATF was 4.4 ppb, and the Santa Teresa Community ATF was 5.7 ppb, both below the 10 ppb.

A second follow-up test at the three ATFs was conducted on May 14, 2025, and CRRUA will release those results when it receives them from the independent water testing lab.

"These follow-up tests are for internal monitoring and public transparency only. They are not for compliance purposes," CRRUA Executive director Juan Crosby said. "Only the quarterly tests NMED conducts are for compliance and according to the latest compliance tests, the Santa Teresa Industrial ATF remains NMED compliant."

Crosby provides additional context:

"It's for these types of situations that NMED grades utilities on a rolling annual average. They know that in between their (NMED) quarterly compliance testing, changes can occur in the water treatment process that can temporarily impact operations. Regulatory agencies understand this and allow utilities to make necessary adjustments without negatively impacting their arsenic compliance scores. Through its own voluntary testing, CRRUA discovered an elevated level at one facility. This is complicated chemistry that involves the mixing ratio of chemicals. So, instead of overtreating, operators immediately began making gradual adjustments to the treatment to bring the arsenic level below the MCL without overcompensating. This type of voluntary testing and close working relationship with NMED is unique to the CRRUA service area because it exceeds what is required by compliance regulation, and CRRUA openly publicizes the process. You don't always see that with water utilities. This is not an operating process all utilities follow. CRRUA intentionally provides a higher level of transparency to keep customers aware of their utility system. Facility operators follow standard operating procedures (SOPs,) and this situation will provide valuable training and a data point that will be added to the SOPs."

CRRUA operates four ATFs and excluded the Border Entry ATF from its voluntary testing due to its continued meeting of federal and state requirements. Crosby said CRRUA will continue to conduct daily monitoring at all ATFs.

As of January 2025, all four ATFs operated by CRRUA are NMED compliant, which means they were below EPA's MCL for four consecutive quarters.

Since January 24, 2024, CRRUA has passed 22 arsenic tests including four quarterly NMED tests.

Arsenic tests results are available on the CRRUA website crrua.org.

CRRUA recently achieved 94.8% compliance in correcting deficiencies identified by NMED in its 2023 Sanitary Survey of CRRUA. Of the 58 deficiencies identified, CRRUA has corrected 55.

CRRUA provides water and wastewater services to Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, NM.

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May 6, 2025 Follow-up Test Results

These are the first follow-up tests to the CRRUA voluntary monthly test for April 2025 conducted by an independent laboratory Certified by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

