

CRRUA Customer Message

Date: 10/14/2024

Notice of Violation Clarified

CRRUA's 3rd Quarter NMED Arsenic Results Compliant with EPA Standards

Customers of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) will receive by mail a notice of violation (NOV) [letter](#) from CRRUA informing them that New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) test results for the third quarter of 2024 (July - September) showed arsenic in the water that exceeded the federal limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb.) **CRRUA in fact passed NMED's third quarter arsenic tests**, however, according to NMED guidelines, test results are based on a Running Annual Average (RAA.)

CRRUA passed the last two consecutive NMED quarterly tests, **including NMED's third quarter** (July - September) **tests** from samples taken July 30, 2024.

NMED 3 RD QUARTER TEST RESULTS/JULY 30, 2024		
Sample Location	Sample Result (ppb)	Arsenic MCL 10 (ppb)
Arsenic Treatment Facility (ATF)		
Santa Teresa Border Entry (ATF)	3.0	Below MCL
Industrial Park Arsenic (ATF)	4.0	Below MCL
Sunland Park Arsenic (ATF)	9.0	Below MCL
Santa Teresa Community	5.0	Below MCL

The wording in the letter CRRUA customers will receive states that water samples taken from the Industrial Park Arsenic TP and Sunland Park Arsenic TP for the third quarter of 2024 (July - September) exceeded the federal limit for arsenic. However, that is based on the RAA that included results from previous consecutive quarters. **It is not based solely on the results of the tests NMED conducted from samples taken July 30, 2024, which CRRUA passed.**

This is the table provided by NMED that appears in the letter to CRRUA customers

Sample Location	Quarter & Year	RAA mg/L
Industrial Park Arsenic TP	3 rd Quarter 2024	0.020
Sunland Park Arsenic TP	3 rd Quarter 2024	0.011

In the form letter to CRRUA customers, there is a section where CRRUA can submit a response to NMED and customers. This is the CRRUA response that appears in the letter:

What is being done?

The Industrial Park Arsenic TP and Sunland Park Arsenic TP are currently treating for arsenic and producing water below the EPA Standard of 0.010 mg/L.

- The NMED arsenic sample taken at Industrial Park Arsenic TP on 07-30-2024 for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was at 0.004 mg/L which is below the EPA Standards.
- The NMED arsenic sample taken at Sunland Park Arsenic TP on 07-30-2024 for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was at 0.009 mg/L which is below the EPA Standards.

The MCL for arsenic is determined by NMED on a running annual average (RAA) pursuant to 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 CFR 141.23(i)(1). It is CRRUA's estimate that by the end of year the RAA will be below the MCL.

To reiterate, **CRRUA PASSED the arsenic tests conducted by NMED for the third quarter of 2024 (July – September.)**

CRRUA Executive Director Juan Carlos Crosby stated that perhaps in the future, the wording of the NOV could be addressed with NMED with the goal of revising the wording to reflect actual circumstances.

In the meantime, [CRRUA has passed 15 arsenic tests](#) since January 24, 2024, including its voluntary monthly test for October 2024, as verified by an NMED certified independent water testing laboratory.

CRRUA continues to provide water that arsenic tests prove are below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and is there for safe to consume.