

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected in Lower Rio Grande PWWA South Valley Water System**

*\*This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by the LOWER RIO GRANDE PWWA SOUTH VALLEY water system had the following concentrations of fluoride:*

Sample Location	Sample Date	Result mg/L
Treatment Plant #8 (019)	7/14/2020	2.4

*Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*

*Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/l of fluoride (the US Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceeded 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.*

*For more information, please call Martin Lopez of the Lower Rio Grande PWWA South Valley water system at 575-233-3947. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP\**

*\*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.\**

Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in our source water.

We are continuing to monitor fluoride levels. We will inform you if they exceed the level of 4 mg/l.

We are seeking funds for treatment for fluoride within a few years.



New Mexico  
Water Bureau

Environment Department - Drinking

**Public Notification Certification Form – All Tiers**

Requirements Pursuant to 40 CFR 141 (Subpart Q)

**\*\*This form and a copy of your Notice to the Public must be submitted to the State within 10 days of notifying your customers. \*\***

**PWSID#:** NM3502407    **Water System Name:** Lower Rio Grande PWWA South Valley

**Violation or Situation Date:** 9/21/2020

**Individual Contaminant or Contaminant Group:** 99- Secondary Fluoride

**Violation or Situation Type:** Secondary MCL (Fluoride)

**Violation or Situation Public Notification Tier:** Tier 3

Distributed the notice by the following method(s), and on the following date(s) in accordance with 40 CFR 141.201:

- |                                     |  |                        |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Continuously Post                                    | Date: <u>9/22/2020</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Separate Mailing to Customers                        | Date: _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hand Deliver Notice to Customers                     | Date: _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Publish Notice in Newspaper                          | Date: _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Provide Notice to NM Department of Health (REQUIRED) | Date: _____            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Release Notice to and Announced by Broadcast Media   | Date: _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Post Notice on System Website                        | Date: <u>9/22/2020</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Billing  | Date: _____            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Annual Report (Consumer Confidence Report)           | Date: <u>7/1/2021</u>  |
|                                     | Other: <u>Posted at all LRGPWWA Offices</u>          | Date: <u>9/22/2020</u> |

The public water system named above hereby certifies that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, and format requirements specified in 40 CFR Part 141:

**Water System Representative:** Michael Lopez **(575) 233-5742 x 1011**  
(Signature)                      (Print Name)                      (Phone Number)

**Date of Public Notice Certification:** 9/22/2020