

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

San Simon DWID Has Levels of Fluoride Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system continues to exceed the drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for fluoride. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Due to the recurring level of fluoride in our water system, we are required to monitor fluoride levels on a quarterly basis. The average level of fluoride in samples taken during the past year, through 10/25/2023, was 6.3 mg/L. The standard for fluoride is that the average of samples taken over the past year may not exceed 4 mg/L (MCL).

What should I do?

Children under the age of nine should use an alternative source of water that is low in fluoride. In addition, you may want to consult your dentist about whether to avoid dental products containing fluoride. Adults and children over age nine should consult their dentist or doctor and show him/her this notice to determine if an alternate source of water low in fluoride should be used.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or greater may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the and occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Although it takes many years of exposure to fluoride for bone disease to develop, mottling can occur after a relatively short period of exposure.

What is being done?

Final bid documents for construction to replace the old, inoperable Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment system with a new RO system to address the fluoride exceedances in the water supply are with USDA for final approval. Final approval is anticipated by the end of November. Once the final bids have been approved, the DWID will receive an authorization to advertise the project. Project bids will be received and reviewed by the DWID who will select a contractor. The contractor will be submitted to USDA for approval. It is anticipated that a construction contractor will be selected and approved by January 2024. Construction and project completion milestone dates will be provided by the selected contractor, however, per the Preliminary Engineering Report, construction should be completed in 10 months from the start of construction for an estimated completion date of October 2024.

We also have provided a water machine located at 1204 E 4th Street in San Simon for drinking water that has reverse osmosis to remove fluorine. Tokens are available in our office free of charge to our customers.

For more information, please contact Chuck Fickett at 520-845-2451 or PO Box 14827, San Simon, AZ 85632.

This notice is being sent to you by San Simon DWID. State Water System ID#: AZ04-02027.

Date distributed: November 10, 2023 