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For Immediate Release

Update on Well Water Testing and Irrigation Information Resources

Aztec, NM – The final San Juan County Public Information Meeting was held tonight, Monday, August 17, 2015. Representatives from the EPA, U.S. Department of Health, NM Environment Department, NM State Engineers, NMSU Extension Agency, NM Fish and Wildlife, the City of Farmington, and San Juan County gave updates on the status of continuing efforts around the Animas River Contamination event.

Even though the Farmington City Water Utility was not subject to contamination, upgrades will be installed to the intake on the Animas that can detect contaminants like what are seen in a mine spill as well as hydrocarbons that would be seen in an oil spill. The emergency intake system on the San Juan will be upgraded as well.

Both the EPA and the Governor's Task Force assured community members that they are here for the long run and are developing long range plans for testing of sediment as well as surface water.

Anyone who has questions about the availability of irrigation water should contact the Superintendent for the ditch in question.

The NM Environment Department has well water testing available in their office, 3400 Messina Dr., Farmington during regular business hours. This is a regular service they offer to the public. If you have questions, please call 505-566-9741.

The NM Environment Department is preparing letters with test results (w/ field instruments) for the 601 water samples tested at the Lee Acres/San Juan County Fair site last week. Test results will be mailed this week.

EPA completed collecting ground water samples from private wells south of the Colorado border along the Animas River and the San Juan River of New Mexico from August 10, 2015 through August 15, 2015. EPA has not received the final results for all of the samples; however, the preliminary results that have been received indicate that all were less than the state and the federal drinking water Maximum Contaminant Limits (MCLs). Some samples exceeded the secondary MCL for manganese. High manganese can impart an unpleasant taste and odor to drinking water, and can cause mineral deposits on plumbing fixtures and laundry. The EPA Health Advisory is available at this location:

http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/ccl/pdfs/reg_determine1/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport.pdf

After EPA receives the final results for each well sampled, EPA and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will provide the results with an explanation of the results to each well owner.

There will be a Water Fair held at the Farmington Sycamore Center, 1051 Sycamore St, Farmington August 24th from 12:00pm to 5:30pm and August 25th from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Free water well testing will be available to the public.

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Other Resources:

[San Juan County Office of Emergency Management](http://www.sjcoem.com) (www.sjcoem.com and www.facebook.com/sanjuancountyofficeofemergencymanagement)

[San Juan County Government](http://www.sicounty.net) (www.sicounty.net and Facebook – San Juan County, New Mexico. Government)

[City of Farmington](http://www.fmtn.org) (www.fmtn.org and www.facebook.com/cityoffarmingtonnm)

[Farmington Fire Department](https://www.facebook.com/Farmingtonfire) (www.facebook.com/Farmingtonfire)

[Farmington Police Department](https://www.facebook.com/farmingtonpolicedepartmentnm) (www.facebook.com/farmingtonpolicedepartmentnm)

[City of Aztec Municipal Government Offices](http://www.aztecmn.gov) (www.aztecmn.gov and Facebook – City of Aztec Municipal Government Offices)

[NMSU Cooperative Extension Service](http://www.nmedriverwatersafety.org) 505-334-9496

[NMED web site](http://www.nmedriverwatersafety.org) www.nmedriverwatersafety.org

[US EPA web site](http://epaos.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11082) http://epaos.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11082