



## Notification provided via E-mail

5/15/2023

Esequiel Salas, [mayor@vtc.net](mailto:mayor@vtc.net)  
Columbus Water System, NM3523016  
PO Box 350  
Columbus, NM 88029

### RE: Notice of Violation – Inorganics Monitoring and Reporting

Dear Esequiel Salas:

This letter serves as Notice of Violation that the Columbus Water System did not complete the monitoring requirements for the inorganic contaminants listed in Table 1. The monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants are defined in the New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations, 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.23, Inorganic chemical sampling and analytical requirements].

Table 1

Contaminant	Facility	Compliance Period
Asbestos	Distribution	2020-2022

The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) requires the Columbus Water System to notify customers of the monitoring violations shown in Table 1 as required in 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.204]. The notice must be provided to all customers and others who drink the water no later than one year from the date on this Notice of Violation by mail or direct delivery and the Columbus Water System must repeat the notice annually for as long as the violation persists. In addition, public notice must be provided by one other method reasonably expected to reach consumers of the water system, i.e., publication in a local newspaper or posting in conspicuous locations. This notice must remain posted as long as the violation persists.

Pursuant to 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.31(d)] the Columbus Water System must certify that the notice was published and the method of publication, by submitting a completed copy of the enclosed Public Notification Certification Form to the DWB within 10 days of completing the public notification requirements. A representative copy of each type of notice distributed, published, posted or made available to the people served by the system must be included with the certification form.

Failure to comply with the public notice requirements will result in an additional violation (failure to notify the public and the state) being issued without notice to the Columbus Water System water system. Continued failure to comply with Public Notification Requirements, as defined in 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Sections 141.204 and 141.31(d)] will result in escalated enforcement actions including issuance of Administrative Orders with possible penalties assessed against the Columbus Water System water system.

Please fill out and return the enclosed Public Notice Certification Form to:

Tim Willy by email to [tim.willy@env.nm.gov](mailto:tim.willy@env.nm.gov)

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

NMED-DWB reserves the right to take additional enforcement action regarding the violations identified in this NOV, to include the issuance of an Administrative Compliance Order compelling compliance and issuing civil penalties.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at 505-690-6657 or by e-mail at [tim.willy@env.nm.gov](mailto:tim.willy@env.nm.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Willy", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Tim Willy, Compliance Officer  
Drinking Water Bureau  
Water Protection Division

Enclosures:     Public Notice Template  
                     Public Notice Certification Form

cc: Brandi Littleton, Compliance Supervisor (electronic)  
     Electronic Central File

# Instructions for Monitoring Violations

## Template on Following Page

If you are required to provide Tier 3 notification, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(b)]. Multiple monitoring violations can be serious, and the NMED DWB may have more stringent requirements. Check with the NMED DWB to make sure you meet its requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has already been resolved, you must post the notice for at least seven days 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(b)]. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the following page is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(d)]. You may need to modify the template for a notice for individual monitoring violations. This example presents violations in a table; however, you may write out an explanation for each violation if you wish. For any monitoring violation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other groups, you may list the group name in the table, but you must provide the name of every chemical in the group on the notice, e.g., in a footnote.

You may need to modify the notice if you had any monitoring violations for which monitoring later showed a maximum contaminant level or other violation. In such cases, you should refer to the public notice you issued at that time. If you do modify the notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

### Mandatory Language

Mandatory language for monitoring and testing procedure violations 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.205(d)] must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

### Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took, or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. You can use the following language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.
- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample for [contaminant] exceeded the limit. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]
- We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above.

### After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send the NMED DWB a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.31(d)].

**\*\*PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM MUST APPROPRIATELY MODIFY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE TO INCLUDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE VIOLATION AS WELL AS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE VIOLATION'S AFFECT ON THE WATER SYSTEM. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OFFICIAL MUST DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH ONCE PUBLIC NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY UPDATED, PRIOR TO SENDING OUT TO THE PUBLIC\*\***

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Not Met for  
Columbus Water System water system**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

On 5/15/2023 we became aware that our system recently failed to collect the correct number of drinking water samples. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

*\*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Table1 list the contaminants and the compliance periods which we did not monitor or test and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the compliance periods.\**

**Table 1**

Contaminant	Facility	Compliance Period
Asbestos	Distribution	2020-2022

**What should you do?**

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

**What is being done?**

**Please explain what happened and what is being done to correct the violation(s).**

**For more information, please contact:**

Esequiel Salas at [mayor@vtc.net](mailto:mayor@vtc.net)  
Columbus Water System, NM3523016  
Po Box 350  
Columbus, NM 88029

*\*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.\**



***New Mexico Environment Department - Drinking Water Bureau***

**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#:** NM3523016    **Water System Name:** Columbus Water System

**Violation or Situation Date:** 2020-2022 Compliance Period

**Individual Contaminant or Contaminant Group:** Inorganic Contaminants

**Violation or Situation Type:** 03- Inorganic Monitoring and Reporting

**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 type="checkbox"/> Continuously Post                                  | Date: _____ |
| <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"/> Release Notice to and Announced by Broadcast Media | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Notice on System Website                      | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billing  | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report (Consumer Confidence Report)         | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                       | Date: _____ |

**Attach a copy of the posted Public Notice(s) to this certification form.**

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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)                      (Print Name)                      (Phone Number)

Date of Certification: \_\_\_\_\_