

**New Mexico Environment Department  
Drinking Water Bureau**

**NMED**

**New  
Mexico  
Environment  
Department**



**SANITARY SURVEY REPORT**

**La Mesa Water Co-operative**

**WSS # 001-23**

**December 21, 2009**

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a sanitary survey is to evaluate and document the ability of the water system to continually provide safe drinking water. This is accomplished by an inspection by the State of New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) that examines the capabilities of the water system's sources, treatment, storage, pumps, distribution network, operation and maintenance, monitoring, and by identifying any deficiencies that may adversely impact a public water system's ability to provide a safe, reliable water supply. In addition to being required by the State of New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations, conducting sanitary surveys on a regular basis is the best means of identifying potential problems and possible reasons for trends in finished water quality that may need to be addressed by enhanced operation, maintenance, or a system upgrade. Sanitary surveys play a fundamental role in ensuring that reliable and safe drinking water is provided to those served by public water systems.

## SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The La Mesa Water Co-op serves a small community water system with 320 service connections and 650 people. The system has 5 wells with a current, combined capacity of 171 gallons per minute (gpm). Wells 1, 2 and 5 are active wells. Well 3 is presently inactive due to high arsenic levels and Well 4 is a failed well that was never used and was recently properly abandoned according to the NM Office of the State Engineer requirements. Each of the active wells is equipped with a sodium hypo-chlorite injection system for disinfection purposes and feed directly into the distribution system. Two storage tanks (Tank 1 (100,000-gals. and Tank 2 (200,000-gals.) float together in the water system office compound. An associated booster pump station with 2, 5 HP booster pumps (75 gpm each) draws water out of the tanks and pressurize the entire distribution system. These pumps are lead/lag and alternate after each use.

The entry points are the raw taps in each of the well houses, with the exception that the Well 3 entry point is the chlorinated tap in the well pit.

The distribution system consists of 2", 4" and 6" regular PVC and C-900 PVC pipe.

## SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES

A significant deficiency is defined as any deficiency that is causing, or has the potential to cause a threat to public health. **Water systems must provide a written corrective action plan to the State within 30 days of receipt of this sanitary survey. Once the plan is approved by NMED/DWB, the corrective actions must be completed within 120 days of receipt of this sanitary survey. Failure to remedy significant deficiencies will result in an enforcement action.**

Once a ground water system has been identified as having significant deficiencies, it must do one or more of the following with consultation and approval from the State:

- Eliminate the source of contamination;
- Correct the significant deficiency;
- Provide an alternate source of water; or
- Provide treatment that reliably achieves at least 99.99 percent (4-log) treatment of viruses before or at the first customer.

1) **Significant Deficiency:** New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations NMAC 20.7.10.400, GENERAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS, Paragraph C. Protection of a public water system well, states: *“A ground water supply well serving a public water system shall have a sanitary seal installed at the wellhead to protect against entry of storm water and other non-potable fluids or foreign materials and against access by insects, rodents, birds, or other vermin.”*

a) **Well #5 was lacking a sanitary seal on top of the wellhead.**

2) **Significant Deficiency:** New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations NMAC 20.7.10.400, GENERAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS, Paragraph D. Finished water storage facilities, states: *“Overflow pipes and vents shall be screened with a corrosion-resistant material or be fitted with an acceptable flap valve.”*

a) **There is no screen/flap valve on the end of the overflow pipe from the two storage tanks.**

### **REGULATORY DEFICIENCIES**

Regulatory deficiencies are deficiencies that result from non-compliance with a portion of the New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations. The La Mesa Water Co-op water system must respond to the following deficiencies within 30 days of receipt of this document, outlining the timeframe in correcting said deficiencies. Failure to remedy regulatory deficiencies will result in an enforcement action.

**There are no regulatory deficiencies**

### **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

Regulatory requirements are ones that must be fulfilled and complied with. If they are not, they will become significant/regulatory deficiencies and violations that will be enforced upon by NMED/DWB.

- **A proper ¼” sampling tap or ¾” hose bib must be installed at Well 3 prior to the chlorine injection point, if and when this well is brought on-line. This will be for compliance with the new Ground Water Rule that will become effective in**

**December 2009. This new rule may require the collection of raw, source samples whenever there is a total coliform positive “Routine” result.**

- **Additional lead notification requirements under the Lead and Copper Rule – Beginning in Dec. 2009, all community water systems must notify all of the people served by the sample sites of the sample results as well as other information. Required information in the notification includes: lead results for all sites sampled, mandatory health effects language for lead, a list of steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, utility contact information and information about the lead maximum contaminant level goal and the lead action level. The system must send or hand deliver this notification within 30 days of receipt of the lead results to all of the sites (homes/businesses) that were sampled for lead. The system must also send a copy of the completed notification form to the NMED/DWB within 3 months of the end of the monitoring period (9/30/2010 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6-months of 2010). A template to use for this notification will be sent out to all community and non-transient water systems prior to the next lead and copper sampling event.**
- **The water system must properly disinfect transmission and distribution mains and wells after repair, new construction or pump replacement.**
- **The La Mesa Water System must keep adequate records. For your information, all public water systems must keep and maintain records for the following periods of time:**

**Bacteriological samples: 5 years**

**Chemical samples: 10 years**

**Records of actions taken to correct violations: 3 years after last action**

**Reports, correspondence, communications and sanitary surveys: 10 years**

**Variance granted to the system: 5 years following the expiration of the variance.**

**Copies of public notices posted for violations: 3 years**

**Lead and copper samples: 12 years**

- **Any new or replacement equipment or materials that touch drinking water must meet NSF standards.**

## **NEW REGULATIONS**

As a component of the sanitary survey, your system is evaluated with respect to any future regulations, which may eventually have an impact on your system. Future regulations that will or could affect your system are listed below. For more information on these rules, please call me. These rules with a brief description are:

- **The new Ground Water Rule – This new rule is effective on Dec. 1, 2009 and will require triggered source water monitoring when total coliform samples are positive, proper**

reaction to a positive fecal indicator in a source water sample, corrective actions including the installation of continuous, automatic disinfection, adequate chlorine contact time (if chlorination is used) and other requirements. NMED/DWB recommends that the water system study the requirements of the new Groundwater Rule on either the EPA or NMED/DWB website. The NMED website can be found at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/>.

The Groundwater Rule may also require that the La Mesa Water Co-op achieve 4-log (99.99%) inactivation of viruses. This means that, if required, the system's chlorination systems will need to be equipped with adequate chlorine contact time for the chlorine to kill pathogens in the water.

**The following chlorine contact time calculation is only an estimate for your information. An engineer will need to be consulted to properly determine your chlorine contact time requirements.** The system will need to install a properly piped storage tank that will provide the needed contact time. La Mesa Water Co-op's four wells pump directly into the distribution system. This set-up means that there is little to no chlorine contact time at any of the wells. Based on temperature, pH and a chlorine dosage of 0.6 mg/l, your system will need 10 minutes of properly piped and/or baffled chlorine contact time (storage capacity) at each of the chlorinated wells prior to the first customer. Chlorine contact time could be installed through the construction of storage tanks adjacent to the chlorination systems or through the construction of dedicated transmission mains from the wells to the two storage tanks (or some combination of these two options). Storage tanks will only be credited with a baffling factor of 0.1 – 0.3% of the volume of the tank, whereas dedicated transmission mains will be credited at 100% of the volume of the pipe. Using the storage tank method, Well 1 has a pumping capacity of 36 gpm, so at least 360-gals. of storage capacity will be required. However, since the entire volume of the tank will not be counted for chlorine contact time because of lack of mixing, the tank will need to be larger. If a tank is properly piped (in one end at the top and out the other end at the bottom), but does not have any baffling inside, only 10 – 30% of the tank volume can be counted towards chlorine contact time (possibly 10% rather than 30%). Without baffling inside the tank, this would mean that the tank at Well 1 may need to be 3,600-gals. to 10,800-gals. With baffling inside the tank, the tank volume could be cut dramatically.

Well 2 has a pumping capacity of 25 gpm. Based on the above reasoning, this tank may need to be 2,500-gals. to 7,500-gals., but much less with baffling. Well 3 pumps at 65 gpm, which means that this tank may need to be 6,500-gals. to 19,500-gals. However, with baffling inside the tank, the volume could be cut dramatically. Well 5 pumps 110 gpm and may need a properly piped 11,000-gal. to 33,000-gal. tank, but much less with adequate baffling inside.

There are other possible ways to decrease chlorine contact time requirements, which include, but are not limited to, increasing the chlorine dosage or decreasing the pumping capacity of the wells (smaller pumps or flow restrictor) or other methods of piping the tanks. **Again, this information is being provided for your information only and is in**

**no way official or comprehensive. Please consult with a professional, licensed engineer, who can design chlorination systems with adequate chlorine contact time for your wells.** There are also approved alternatives to chlorine disinfection, which include ultra violet light, ozone, chloramines and chlorine dioxide.

- Radon Rule – The final radon rule has not been finalized yet, but it may set an MCL or combined air/water MCL for radon. The proposed MCL may be 300 pCi/Liter. If the State of New Mexico adopts a combined air/water MCL, this proposed level might be 4,000 pCi/L.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTES**

The following recommendations and notes are provided to aid the water system in providing consistently safe drinking water, but are not significant or regulatory deficiencies. Based on this, no action plan is required, although it is strongly recommended that these issues be addressed.

- The Wells 2 and 5 casings terminate less than 18” above grade. These casings should be extended to at least 18” above final grade. The Well 2 vent is also less than 18” above final grade. This could corrupt the sanitary seal on this well. Extending the casing to at least 18” high will fix this problem.
- The concrete pad at Well 2 is cracked. This should be repaired or replaced.
- The overflow pipe from the two storage tanks, terminates at grade level. This overflow pipe should end at least 12” – 18” above grade.
- The system’s total coliform sample siting plan lists twelve sites for sampling throughout the year, so each site is sampled once a year. This does not meet the requirement that each site be sampled every 4 months. Instead, each site is being sampled every 12 months. The system should pick 3-4 sites plus 1 or 2 alternate sites that are representative of the entire distribution system, including one dead end. I am including a blank total coliform sample siting plan with this sanitary survey. Please complete it following the instructions and send it to me for review and approval.
- NMED/DWB recommends that a rock bed or concrete splash pad be installed under the end of the overflow pipe from the two storage tanks.
- Parts of the PVC overflow pipe from the two storage tanks are becoming exposed as soil erodes away around the pipe. NMED recommends that this pipe be covered again with 2-3’ of soil.
- The wells have probably been grounded, but one grounding rod may be inadequate to protect the pump in case of a lightning strike. Well protection from lightning strikes is a function of soil resistivity, the electrical transmission and the actual grounding. If you

are concerned about the quality of your well pump's protection against lightning strikes, you can consult an electrical expert. A submersible well pump should last about 15 years or more.

- NMED recommends reading the master meters daily and recording the results. This will allow you to calculate maximum, minimum and average daily usages, and to possibly determine if there are any leaks.
- NMED recommends that the La Mesa Water Co-op install cathodic protection on your storage tanks. This is a relatively inexpensive yet very effective way to prevent rust formation inside the storage tank.
- AWWA recommends that a thorough structural and coating inspection be completed every 5 years on all storage tanks. This inspection should be performed by National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) certified inspectors and according to AWWA D101-53, "AWWA Standard for Inspecting and repairing steel Water Tanks, Standpipes, Reservoirs, and Elevated Tanks for Water Storage". Additionally the Drinking Water Bureau recommends an annual inspection and cleaning by the operator. Storage tanks should also be rehabilitated by sand blasting and re-coating with an NSF approved coating when needed. Storage tank 1 was rehabilitated in 1995, but Storage tank 2 has never been rehabilitated.
- La Mesa Water Co-op has a telemetry system tying the wells to the storage tanks. The levels in the tanks control well turn-on and turn-off. Since the system has an existing telemetry system, NMED recommends the installation of entrance/intrusion alarms on both of the storage tanks tied to an automatic dialer. This should be relatively inexpensive, but will give the system detection capability if someone tries to enter or dump something into a storage tank.

## OBSERVATIONS

These are things noted about the system's design, operation and maintenance, both positive and negative that could have an affect on the system's ability to reliably produce and distribute safe drinking water.

- Arsenic levels (The new MCL is 10 parts per billion [ppb])
  1. Well 1 has a range of 3 - 4 ppb.
  2. Well 2 has a range of 8 - 10 ppb.
  3. Well 3 has a range of 17 ppb – 27 ppb.
  4. Well 5 (your Well 4) has a level of 6 ppb.
- Nitrate levels (MCL is 10 parts per million [ppm])
  1. Well 1 – Nitrate levels have a range of non-detect (N/D) – 0.312 ppm.
  2. Well 2 – Nitrate levels have a range of non-detect (N/D) – 0.11 ppm.
  3. Well 3 – Nitrate levels have a range of 0.07 – 0.42 ppm.

4. Well 5 - Nitrate level is non-detect.
- Fluoride levels (MCL is 4 ppm).
    1. Well 1 has a range of 0.40 – 0.53 ppm.
    2. Well 2 has a range of 0.43 ppm – 0.475 ppm.
    3. Well 3 has a range of 0.443 – 0.54 ppm
    4. Well 5 has a level of 0.4 ppm
  - Radiochemical levels
    1. Well 1 - The radiological levels in Well 1 are low. The results of the 4-quarter composite collected in 2005 indicate that Well 1 will be on a schedule of one set of radio-chemical samples every 6 years beginning in 2008 (2008-2013, 2014-2019, etc.).
    2. Well 2 - The radiological levels in Well 2 are low. The results of the 4-quarter composite collected in 2005 indicate that Well 2 will be on a schedule of one set of radio-chemical samples every 6 years beginning in 2008 (2008-2013, 2014-2019, etc.).
    3. Well 3 - The radiological levels in Well 3 are low. The results of the 4-quarter composite collected in 2005 indicate that Well 3 will be on a schedule of one set of radio-chemical samples every 6 years beginning in 2008 (2008-2013, 2014-2019, etc.).
    4. Well 5 - The radiological levels in Well 5 are low. The results of the 4-quarter composite collected in 2008 indicate that Well 4 will be on a schedule of one set of radio-chemical samples every 6 years beginning in 2008 (2008-2013, 2014-2019, etc.).
  - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
    1. Well 1 – No VOCs have been detected above the detection limit of 5 ppb.
    2. Well 2 – No VOCs have been detected above the detection limit of 5 ppb.
    3. Well 3 – No VOCs have been detected above the detection limit of 5 ppb
    4. Well 5 – No VOCs have been detected above the detection limit of 5 ppb.
  - Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)
    1. Well 1 – No SOC's have been detected in any samples.
    2. Well 2 – No SOC's have been detected in any samples.
    3. Well 3 – No SOC's have been detected in any samples.
    4. Well 5 – No SOC's have been detected in any samples.
  - Radon levels
    1. Well 1 – The radon level is 542 pCi/L.
    2. Well 2 – The radon level is 192 pCi/L..
    3. Well 3 – The radon level is 171 pCi/L.
    4. Well 5 – The radon level is 426 pCi/L.



- Asbestos – An asbestos sample was collected in 2004 and the result was non-detect. The next asbestos waiver or sample will be issued/collected by 2013, for the 2011 – 2019 compliance cycle.
- Dioxin – The system needs a dioxin waiver for the 2008 – 2010 compliance period. NMED/DWB will issue this waiver if possible.
- La Mesa Water Co-op is also required to collect lead and copper samples. The system has completed the 2 initial 6-month monitoring periods (in 2004 and 2005). The lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level was less than 0.005 mg/L and the copper 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level was less than 0.65 mg/l. Based on this, the sampling schedule was changed to triennial. The next set of 5 lead and copper samples must be collected in June, July, August or September of 2011 and in one of the 4 summer months every three years thereafter.
- TTHMs and HAA5s – The next set of TTHMs and HAA5s will be collected by an NMED/DWB sampler in the summer of 2011 from the point of maximum residence time.
- This system needs to be sampled for the following chemical contaminants during the 2008 – 2010 compliance period: Wells 1 and 2 - nitrates/nitrites – annually, heavy metals, cyanide, fluoride and VOCs and SOCs (if no waiver) once. A set of radio-chemical samples will be collected during the 2008 – 2013 compliance period. Well 3 is presently off-line because of elevated arsenic levels. This well is not being sampled. Well 5 (La Mesa Well 4) – nitrates/nitrites – annually, heavy metals, cyanide, fluoride and SOCs once. VOCs are on annual sampling and one more will be collected in 2010. Radio-chemicals are on a 6-year schedule and will be collected next in 2013. Even though NMED personnel track and collect these chemical samples, the water system is ultimately responsible for the collection of these samples. This means that if a sample is not collected, the violation goes against the system until the next required sample is collected. Therefore, it is a good idea for you to insure that you receive all of these sample results for well 2 in the proper year, at least 3 months before the end of the year or compliance period. If you are missing a sample in September of 2009 or especially 2010, please call me to make sure the sample has been or will be collected. This will give our sample collectors time to collect the necessary sample.
- Due to an NMED prohibition against climbing storage tanks, neither of the tanks were climbed or inspected inside or on top. This leaves this responsibility with the water system. Storage tanks should be maintained and inspected routinely inside and outside. A storage tank page from this sanitary survey can be used to inspect the tanks.
- The entry point (chemical compliance point) for all of the wells is the raw/finished tap in all of the associated well houses/underground vaults.
- NMED/DWB tries to keep track of all wells. NMED/DWB just received an Office of the State Engineer plugging report for Well RG 49802-S-5. NMED commends the system

for protecting groundwater by plugging and properly abandoning this well. I number wells according to the chronological order, the wells were drilled in. Therefore, NMED/DWB is numbering the failed well as Well #4. Well 5 is the newest well, which the system calls Well 4. La Mesa can call the newest well, Well 4, but NMED has changed the name of this well to Well 5. All future chemical samples from this well will be labeled as collected from Well 5. The ID number of #009, will not change.

- The system has dual check valves for back-flow protection at all service connections.
- La Mesa Water Co-op has 2 reserve funds totaling about \$158,000.00. An emergency fund contains \$8,000.00 and a construction fund contains \$150,000.00. NMED commends La mesa Water Co-op on this far sighted planning. NMED recommends that the system continue setting aside an affordable amount every month and adding it to these accounts on a routine basis.
- The La Mesa Water Co-op has an excellent water billing structure that encourages water conservation and discourages excessive and wasteful water use. As customers use more water, the per gallon cost of water increases. La Mesa's monthly billing structure is as follows:
  1. There is a fixed rate of \$33.00 per month per service connection
  2. 0 – 104,000-gals per year, the charge is \$1.20 per 1,000-gals. This works out to \$0.0012/gal.
  3. 104K – 144K gals. per year, the charge is \$10.50 per 1,000-gals. This equals \$0.01/gal.
  4. 144K – 175K gals. per year, the charge is \$21.00 per 1,000-gals. This works out to \$0.02/gal.
  5. Over 175K gals. per year, the charge is \$31.50 per 1,000-gals. This equals \$0.03/gal.

As you can see, the cost per gallon of water increases as customers use more water.

## **MANAGEMENT**

The following are recommendations, which were based on answers made on the sanitary survey, under the section MANAGEMENT.

- For most changes, water systems must receive prior approval from the NMED Drinking Water Bureau Engineering Program prior to beginning any construction. This includes enlargement of the system, addition of any water treatment processes, and replacement or addition of storage capacity or distribution piping and well replacement. Please contact the DWB Engineering Team at (877) 654-8720 for more information.

- La Mesa Water Co-op has established some written standard operating procedures (O and M). NMED DWB recommends that the following plans be established and written:
  1. Emergency response plan,
  2. Water conservation plan
- For your information, the NMED website is located at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us>. For the Drinking Water Bureau, please click on “Drinking Water”. The NM Drinking Water Regulations are available here. Also, water sample results are available to the public at “Drinking Water Watch”, <http://eidea.statenm.us/SDWIS/>.
- It is recommended that management prioritize all deficiencies prior to implementing a plan to correct said deficiencies.

### **SAMPLING SCHEDULE**

Attached is the chemical sampling schedule for the La Mesa Water co-op. Please review this schedule for accuracy, as this is the schedule that DWB will use to collect chemical compliance samples. Although DWB collects the majority of chemical compliance samples, it is the ultimate responsibility of the water system to ensure that these samples are collected in the appropriate timeframes.

### **OTHER RELATED DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS**

#### Source Water Protection

A source water protection plan is a voluntary program that can provide assistance towards protecting your water source from existing and potential sources of contamination and can help provide a plan for development of an alternate water supply if the existing supply becomes contaminated. The source water protection plan process consists of six actions: 1) formation of a community planning team, 2) delineation of source water protection areas, 3) inventory of actual and potential sources of contamination, 4) completion of a susceptibility analysis, 5) management of source water protection areas, and 6) planning for existing and future events.

New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau completed a source water assessment of your water system in 2003. If you would like more information regarding Source Water Protection, please call the DWB Source Water Coordinator at (877) 654-8720.

#### Capacity

Capacity is the ability of a water system to meet its regulatory and business requirements in the present and into the future. It is generally divided into three areas: technical, managerial, and financial (often abbreviated TMF). In order for a water system to operate effectively and efficiently, it must have adequate TMF capacity.

Technical capacity refers to the adequacy of operation and physical infrastructure of the water system, including the water source, treatment, storage, and distribution system. It also refers to the proper operation of the water system. Managerial capacity is a water system's ability to conduct its affairs in a manner enabling it to achieve and maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. Financial capacity is a water system's ability to acquire and manage sufficient financial resources to allow the system to achieve and maintain compliance with SDWA requirements.

A water system that has capacity deficiencies may have difficulty or issues with: obtaining needed funding; customer relations; meeting its legal or business obligations; and/or running an efficient system. The Drinking Water Bureau Capacity Development Program has training and some assistance available to board members and operators to assist a system improve its capacity. Training and assistance is offered at no charge to the water systems. For more information on training and capacity assistance, contact the DWB Capacity Supervisor at (877) 654-8720.

### Security

Security is an essential function of all water systems. It is not only about protecting a water system from vandalism and terrorism, but also preparation for other man-made threats such as accidents or fire, as well as natural disasters such as floods or tornadoes.

Legal requirements for water system security come from Title IV of the federal public health security and bioterrorism preparedness and response act of 2002 (the Act). This act requires every community water system serving a population over 3,300 to conduct a vulnerability assessment to assess "the vulnerability of its system to a terrorist attack or other intentional acts intended to substantially disrupt the ability of the system to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water."

The Act also requires these systems to prepare an emergency response plan to ensure that these water systems are prepared to deal with an emergency situation. Once an emergency response plan is created, it must be practiced, reviewed and updated routinely.

DWB is assisting in the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Alert Response Network (NM WARN) which is an intrastate mutual aid network. It facilitates assistance to water systems in need by other water systems. For more information on NM WARN, please visit our website: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/security/warn.htm> for more information on NM WARN.

NMED/DWB has an "Emergency Response Plan" (ERP) in place with personnel in all DWB offices trained in its use. This plan is essentially an action plan for use in any kind of water system emergency (potential contamination, structural damage, natural disaster and cyber attack). It outlines initial actions to be taken by NMED/DWB, actions of the DWB Security Coordinator in each District, actions of the DWB system oversight person and actions that need to be taken by the water system. It is designed as a tool for NMED/DWB personnel to use to help a water system respond to an emergency. The Emergency Communication Protocol (Appendix A)

is a very important part of this document. In case of an emergency, please follow this protocol and make the 3 required phone calls.

DWB has created a Security Team to enhance emergency response and water system security, through training and assistance, throughout New Mexico. The Security Team has a trained water security staff member in each DWB District. For more information on security, please contact the DWB Security Team Coordinator at (877) 654-8720.

### Operator Certification

La Mesa Water Co-op has a contract with a WS-3 certified operator and is in compliance with certified operator requirements.

If a water system employs an operator in good standing certified at a level of SW or above, then the operator is certified to collect microbiological samples. In order to collect chemical samples, an operator would either need to qualify for WST2 or have attained Level WS2 or higher certification.

For more information on Certified Operator and Sampler certification, please contact the Utility Operator Certification Program (505) 222-9575, or visit the website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB/UOCP/index.html>

### Water Conservation Fee Fund Payments

As a public water system, the La Mesa Water Co-op is required to pay the water conservation fee. The water conservation fund was created by the State of New Mexico Legislature and the fee is collected by the State of New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department. The fee is 3 cents per 1000 gallons of water produced. Money in the water conservation fund is used to fund certain types of chemical and microbiological sampling.

For questions regarding this fee, please contact our Water Conservation Fee Coordinator at (877) 654-8720.

## CONCLUSIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

In conclusion, the La Mesa Water Co-op water system must correct the following deficiencies:

### **Significant Deficiencies:**

- 1. Well #5 was lacking a sanitary seal on the top of the wellhead.**
- 2. There was no screen or flap valve on the end of the overflow pipe from the 2 storage tanks.**

These significant deficiencies negatively impact the La Mesa Water Co-op water system's ability to reliably provide and distribute safe drinking water and should be taken seriously. **The La mesa Water Co-op water system must provide a corrective action plan to address these deficiencies within 30 days of receipt of this document, outlining how the water system will correct all significant deficiencies within 120 days.**