



Free Private Domestic Well Testing San Juan County – Animas River Valley Released by NMED: August 9, 2015

In response to the August 5th spill of mine waste into the Animas River, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are partnering to test private domestic water supply wells, located in the Animas River valley in New Mexico. Testing will identify metals that are of concern in relation to the spill, and other parameters that help in understanding the general quality of well water.

The testing described below will be performed only on water samples from private domestic wells near the Animas River. Testing of drinking water supplied by public water systems is conducted separately by the NMED Drinking Water Bureau as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

August 10-15, 2015

NMED staff will set up a station in the San Juan County Sheriff Substation at the County Fairground to provide field instrument testing of walk-in water samples. **Owners of wells along the Animas River flood plain will be prioritized. Owners of wells outside the flood plain area are asked to bring their samples to the Water Fair held at Sycamore Park August 24-25.** Clients will be asked to locate their well on the NMED-DWB Source Water Protection Atlas and geospatial coordinates will be recorded on the well test form.

The following field tests will be performed at the Fairground testing station:

- Iron, nitrate and fluoride using a HACH colorimeter
- pH using colormetric and electrometric instruments
- specific conductance and temperature using YSI or other meters.

If warranted, these wells may also be flagged for additional laboratory testing as described below.

Additionally, sampling teams will knock on doors of homes near the Animas River, that are not served by a public water system, to offer residents free well testing service that includes laboratory analysis. If no one answers the door, a flier will be left on the door advising residents of the opportunity for free testing, along with contact information. Samples collected from these homes will be returned to the County Fairground testing station for field analysis, and may also be subject to rigorous laboratory testing for a larger suite of parameters. Field sampling teams will determine wellhead coordinates using a GPS transponder.

All samples for laboratory analysis must be collected by NMED or EPA staff. No walk-in water samples delivered to the Fairground testing station will be submitted for laboratory analysis. Walk-in water samples will be eligible for field in field instrument testing as described above.

August 24-25, 2015

The New Mexico Environment and Health Departments will team to conduct an additional free water testing Water Fair Event on **Monday August 24 (12:00-5:00pm) and Tuesday August 25 (9:00am-5:00pm) at Sycamore Park in Farmington.**

The following parameters will be analyzed at the Water Fair Event:

- Iron, nitrate and fluoride using a HACH colorimeter
- pH using colormetric and electrometric instruments
- specific conductance and temperature using YSI or other meters.

Visit www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org for continuing updates on the Gold King Mine Spill into the Animas River.