

# Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement: New Mexico Environment Department Notice of Violation Addressing Artesia Rural Water Cooperative



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The New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) issued a December 26th Notice of Violation (“NOV”) to Artesia Rural Water Cooperative (“ARWC”) for allegedly violating a Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Level (“MCL”).

The NOV states that ARWC exceeded the Safe Drinking Water Act MCL for thallium during the third quarter of 2024.

The MCL for thallium is 0.002 mg/L. It is defined in the New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations at 20.7.10.100.

The MCL for thallium is stated to be determined by running annual average pursuant to 20.7.100 NMAC. The New Mexico regulations incorporate the relevant corresponding federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

ARWC is stated to have exceeded the thallium MCL at the Klen Booster Pump. The NOV provides the alleged running annual averages for ARWC for the fourth quarter of 2023 and the first three quarters of 2024.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau requires that ARWC notify customers of the MCL exceedance. Such notice must be provided to all customers and others who drink water within 30 days from the date of the letter and subsequently issued every three months as long as the exceedance persists.

A copy of the NOV can be downloaded [here](#).