



Dear Well Owner:

Results from recent water quality testing in the Uncompahgre River showed arsenic levels above drinking water standards (known to cause cancer with long-term consumption) as well as other toxic heavy metals. Wells, if properly constructed, should not be affected by bodies of surface water (creeks, streams, lakes, and rivers). However, due to elevated metals in the water of the Uncompahgre, it would be prudent to check the quality of water from your well to ensure that your water is safe to drink.

Initial results from private wells tested in the Loghill area also show high levels of arsenic. To understand the quality of your well water, we recommend you complete a well test, if you have not tested it in recent years. **FREE well water testing** is being offered through the West Central Public Health Partnership.

The offer of free testing is valued at up to \$600 and is only available through 2019. In the second page of this document, please find a related letter sent previously from the Delta County Health Department. In the third page is a form, which you can fill out if you would like to participate. If you have questions, please call Ken Nordstrom at the number at the bottom of his letter.

If you need help completing the form and collecting the water sample, volunteers from the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) are available to help. If you have questions, please contact the UWP: uwpcordinator@gmail.com or call 970-325-3010.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this well testing, which we highly recommend.

In health,

Ouray County Public Health Agency staff



January 2017

Dear: Well Owner

Recently, the West Central Public Health Partnership received a 5 year grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide private well owners with a **FREE** well water test. The purpose of the well-water testing program is to promote and protect the health and safety of private well water users in the West Central Region of Colorado. The Delta County Health Department is coordinating this project in cooperation with the public health departments in Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, San Miguel and Ouray counties. All private well owners in the 6 county Region 10 are urged to partner with their local health departments for a **FREE** well water test.

This is how the project will work. Homeowners whose primary source of drinking water is a private well and who volunteer for the free water testing sample are welcome to apply for a **FREE well or spring water test**. A sampling kit with instructions for sampling will be sent to you to collect the water sample. You will then send the sample to the National Testing Laboratories, LTD for water analysis. The sample will be tested for the following parameters: bacteria (Total Coliform and E. Coli), 22 heavy metals and minerals (including lead, arsenic, and mercury), 7 inorganic chemicals (including nitrates and chloride), 5 physical factors (including pH, alkalinity, and hardness), 47 volatile organic chemicals (including MTBE, PCE, PCE) and 20 pesticides, herbicides and PCBs (including Dieldrin, Atrazine, Heptachlor).

For this project to succeed, we need your cooperation for sampling your well water (the kit will be provided and mailing is free). You will be sent a copy of the sample results from your well. If concerns are noted, information will be available to eliminate or minimize hazards associated with your water. We'll also need your permission to receive a copy of your test results and to be able to use the sample results for analysis and publication. Personal identifiers and the exact location of the well samples will be removed from any public report of the water sample results. **Contact the Delta County Health Department for more information: Phone - 970-874-2165, fax - 970-874-2175 or email - knordstrom@deltacounty.com**

Please complete, sign and return the following page if you are interested in participating. Upon receipt of this participation agreement, the Delta County Health Department will send you a test kit with instructions.

Kenneth Nordstrom, Environmental Health Director
Delta County Health Department
255 W. 6th Street
Delta, CO 81416
Phone: 970-874-2165
Fax: 970-874-2175

Email: knordstrom@deltacounty.com

Please complete as much information as you can.

