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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 6, 2015

Maintenance may altered water's taste and smell *Water utility undergoes annual winter maintenance period*

LITTLE ELM (February 6, 2015) Some customers may detect a slight change in the taste and smell of water delivered to homes and businesses as the Town's water supplier conducts annual maintenance of its distribution system, says Water Supervisor Andrew Figueroa.

"Every year, the North Texas Municipal Water District takes about 30 days to maintain its system," he said. "During that time, the purity and safety of the water does not change or diminish. Nevertheless, some persons with heightened senses may find a slightly altered taste and smell. "

The district will conduct its maintenance from March 2 through March 30 this year.

Chlorine is added to the water during this period to kill bacteria and oxidize contaminants. When the chlorine is combined with ammonia to treat drinking water, it becomes combined chlorine, or chloramines. The typical purpose of chloramines is to provide longer-lasting water treatment as the water moves through pipes to consumers.

Chloramines have been used by water utilities for almost a century, and their use is closely regulated, certified safe to use for drinking, cooking, bathing and other household uses by the EPA.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) allows water suppliers to perform chlorine maintenance. Chlorine maintenance helps reduce the need for water suppliers to flush systems in order to maintain chloramine residual (required by the TCEQ) during the warm weather periods, thus conserving water. Chlorine maintenance is performed in cool weather months when water temperature is lower.

"At the end of the chlorine maintenance period, the taste and smell issue should be completely eliminated," said Figueroa.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 14 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.