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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter maintenance may affect water's taste, smell *Thirty-day maintenance period conducted annually*

LITTLE ELM (January 29, 2018) The annual chlorine maintenance carried out by the Town's water supplier begins on Feb. 26 and continues until March 26, causing some customers to detect a slight change in the taste and smell of their water, says Andrew Figueroa, Utilities Superintendent.

"Every year, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) takes about a month to conduct this maintenance on its system," he said. "During those 30 days or so, the purity and safety of the water does not change or diminish."

Nevertheless, some people with heightened senses may find a slightly altered taste and smell. This change in taste and smell is because chlorine is the only additive mixed into the water during the annual distribution system maintenance period. Normally, chlorine is combined with ammonia to treat drinking water, creating chloramines that serve to oxidize possible contaminants. However, during this time-frame no ammonia is added resulting in what's known as "free chlorine," which can cause a change in the smell and taste.

This process is accomplished once a year to help optimize the quality in the distribution system and reduce the amount of water hydrant flushing in the warmer months.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality allows water suppliers, like the NTMWD, to perform chlorine maintenance, helping reduce the need to flush systems during the summer, thus conserving water.

"At the end of the chlorine maintenance period, any 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 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.