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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter maintenance may affect water's taste and smell

LITTLE ELM (February 15, 2016) The annual chlorine maintenance carried out by the Town's water supplier begins on March 7 and continues until April 4, 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 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. That's because only chlorine is added to the water during this period to kill bacteria and oxidize contaminants. Normally, chlorine is combined with ammonia to treat drinking water, creating a combined chlorine, or chloramines. This is done because chloramines provide longer-lasting water treatment as the water moves further out in the distribution system to consumers.

During the maintenance period, however, ammonia is not added, giving chlorine a greater level of concentration, resulting in a "free chlorine" which can cause a change in the smell and taste.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) allows water suppliers to perform chlorine maintenance, which helps reduce the need for the NTMWD to flush systems during the summer, thus conserving water.

"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 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.