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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Maintenance may affect taste and smell of Town's water *Purity and usability are never compromised*

LITTLE ELM (March 3, 2017) Starting on March 13 and continuing until April 10, some residents may detect a slight difference in the taste and smell of their water, says Public Works Director Kevin Mattingly.

"Every year around this time, the Town's water supplier takes the time to conduct maintenance on their system," he said. "For 28 days during the cooler months, the system's maintenance can cause the water we use to take on a slight odor and different taste. The purity or usability of the water, however, is not compromised."

Little Elm is among the area's cities and towns that purchase most of their water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).

People with heightened senses may detect a slightly altered taste and smell. That's because chlorine is the only chemical 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. Chloramines provide longer-lasting water treatment as the water moves through the system to consumers.

However, during the winter maintenance period, ammonia is not added, giving chlorine a greater level of concentration. This can result in a slight change in the smell and taste of the water.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality allows water suppliers to perform chlorine maintenance, which helps reduce disinfection issues in the hot summer months, lessening the need for cities to flush fire hydrants.

"Once the chlorine maintenance period ends, the taste and smell should return to normal," said Mattingly.

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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.