



Glenn Champion    President  
Carlos Cavazos    Vice President  
Mike Pierce        Secretary / Treasurer  
Cesario Leal III    Director  
Eliceo Munoz       Director

Date    May 2, 2014

**PRESS RELEASE**  
***Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) and  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)***

**To ISSUE NOTICE**  
**REGARDING ‘MATERIAL RELEASE’ OF “BAD WATER”  
BY A PEMEX FACILITY IN MEXICO  
INTO THE RIO SALADO, WHICH EMPTIES IN TO THE RIO GRANDE**

El Jardin Water Supply was notified today by Brownsville PUB and the City of Brownsville that Stage 2 of BPUB’s Drought Contingency Plan also addresses CONTAMINATION EVENTS.

Brownsville receives 76 percent of its raw water from the Rio Grande which is treated to provide potable water to it’s customers. While TCEQ has not directed any immediate notice to cease taking water from the Rio Grande, Brownsville PUB is taking precautionary measures to prepare for the event.

Should the Rio Grande be found to be contaminated, BPUB is prepared to enter Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan in the event contamination is detected and water from the Rio Grande can no longer be used as part of our treated water, and our water capacity is reduced.

BPUB is ensuring that all reservoirs and Brownsville Resacas are topped off. If necessary, the City will be able to subsist for five to seven days without drawing water from the Rio Grande. BPUB also treats brackish ground water through the South Most Regional Water Authority, which should not be affected by contamination of the Rio Grande.

BPUB will continue to conduct daily water monitoring and testing from the Rio Grande. Customers will be notified of any change in the situation, and are asked to comply with calls for conservation that may result.

Gale Armstrong, Jr.

General Manager

2200 North Minnesota Avenue  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. 78521  
PHONE: (956) 831-9981      FAX: (956) 831-9983



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 1, 2014

**Contact:** Alicia Warner  
Comm. & P.R. Manager, BPUB  
(956) 983-6284

### **BPUB: TCEQ Issues Notice Regarding ‘Material Release’**

BROWNSVILLE, TX — The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) is taking a cautious approach to the precautionary notification from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that a “bad” material was released from a Pemex facility in Mexico. Late Wednesday afternoon, TCEQ notified municipal water diverters, including BPUB, that a substance was released into the Rio Salado and is headed toward the Rio Grande. BPUB diverts water from the Rio Grande to treat and supply Brownsville with approximately 76 percent of its potable water.

While TCEQ did not direct any immediate cease of water diversions, as of Wednesday afternoon, BPUB was moving forward on precautionary water sourcing plans found in its Drought Contingency Plan, located on the BPUB website, also addresses contamination events.

Should the Rio Grande be found to be contaminated, BPUB is prepared to enter Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan in the “event of contamination of the water supply and/or transmission and distribution system due to hurricanes, freezes and/or some other natural or man-made cause will result in unprecedented loss of capability to provide service.” This stage must be initiated by the BPUB General Manager & CEO, or his/her designee, and the Mayor of the City of Brownsville, or his/her designee.

At this time, BPUB water treatment plants are ensuring all reservoirs and Brownsville resacas are topped off. If necessary, the city will be able to subsist for five to seven days without drawing from the river.

BPUB will continue to conduct daily water monitoring and testing from the river, as is its normal treatment practice. Customers will be kept abreast of the situation and are asked to please comply with calls for conservation that may result.

The Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA), which is 92.91 percent owned by BPUB, should not be impacted by Rio Grande issues because its water source is a brackish groundwater aquifer. The water is removed by underground wells and treated by reverse osmosis at SRWA, located north of Brownsville. SRWA also serves the City of Los Fresnos, the Town of Indian Lake, the Brownsville Navigation District and Rancho Viejo.

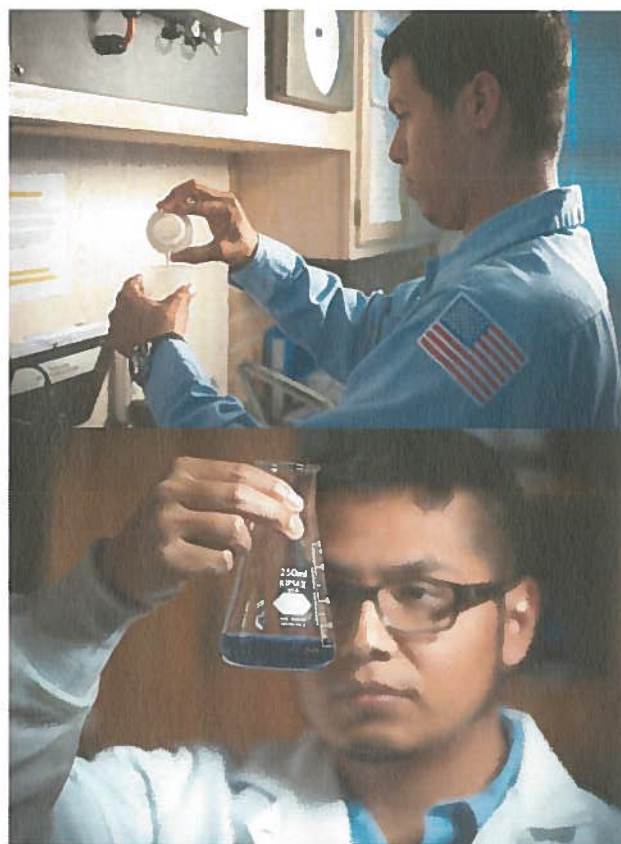
-30-

---

*The Brownsville Public Utilities Board is a full-service, locally owned and operated utility providing electric, water and wastewater service. It has more than 500 dedicated and responsive employees that provide reliable utility service for the City of Brownsville.*

P.O. Box 3270 Brownsville, TX 78523-3270  
(956) 983-6100 Fax: (956) 983-6289  
[www.brownsville-pub.com](http://www.brownsville-pub.com)

## Suggested cut lines for attached BPUB file photos



Cutline 1: The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) BPUB staff use water testing during treatment to achieve the goal and responsibility to provide customers with safe and reliable drinking water. Water from the Rio Grande River and brackish groundwater from the Rio Grande Alluvium is tested by BPUB laboratory technicians on a daily basis.

Cutline 2: A detailed treatment and filtration process is completed before the water is distributed to the 47,000-plus taps in the City's water distribution system. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitor BPUB's compliance with regulatory standards and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

---

*The Brownsville Public Utilities Board is a full-service, locally owned and operated utility providing electric, water and wastewater service. It has more than 500 dedicated and responsive employees that provide reliable utility service for the City of Brownsville.*

P.O. Box 3270 Brownsville, TX 78523-3270  
(956) 983-6100 Fax: (956) 983-6289  
[www.brownsville-pub.com](http://www.brownsville-pub.com)