IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

LEVELS OF HALOACETIC ACIDS ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR LAKE SANTEE RWWD

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets EPA's health standards. The results that we received for Haloacetic Acids for the last monitoring period show that our system currently exceeds the standard(s), or Maximum Contaminant Level(s) (MCL). The MCL for Haloacetic Acids is 60 ug/L. As of 12/31/2015, a locational running annual average is 61.2, 67.6 ug/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

Some people who drink trihalomethanes (THM) in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids (HAA) in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What Happened? What is being done?

When the sample was taken in November, we were bypassing our granular activated carbon tanks due to an issue with the carbon. We have since replaced the carbon in December of 2015. We have also drained the water tower and had a contractor come in and clean the inside of the tank. We also finished flushing water mains on April 12, 2016. The combination of these three things should help lower our THM and HAA results. All testing results since December 2015 have been below the MCL's set by the EPA.

For more information, please contact Brandon Litmer at (812) 527-2943 or by mail at 13 SW Wrenn Parkway, Greensburg, IN 47240.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distribution copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Lake Santee RWWD. PWSID# IN5216003

Lake Santee Regional Waste and Water District
Additional information to help explain Public notice

A quick update on a few things.

Public Notice

Some of you may have some questions about the public notice on the opposite page. EPA requires the RWWD to sample four times per year for trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids (HAA), which are disinfection by products. We collect samples from two different locations in February, May, August and November. The average of the samples collected in these four different months has to be below 80 ug/L for trihalomethanes and 60 ug/L for haloacetic acids. We have maintained an average below 80 ug/L for trihalomethanes. Our average did exceed 60 ug/L for haloacetic acids. As we stated in our previous newsletters we were having problems with our granular activated carbon from May through November in 2015. The carbon was leaching manganese that was causing an increase in our finished water turbidity. In consultation with IDEM the decision was made to bypass the carbon until a solution was found.

One of the main functions of the carbon is the removal of organic matter from the water. When organic matter comes into contact with chlorine haloacetic acids are formed. The more organic matter the higher the haloacetic acids results will be. The fact that we were bypassing the carbon in May and November resulted in us having higher than normal haloacetic acid results. The testing results from May and November resulted in our average exceeding the maximum contaminant level of 60 ug/L for haloacetic acids.

It was determined that our carbon needed to be replaced and that was completed in December 2015. The RWWD also hired a contractor to clean and inspect the water tower. This work was completed on March 22. RWWD employees also finished flushing water mains on April 12. The combination of these three things should aid in a significant reduction of haloacetic acids in your drinking water. All testing results have been below the maximum contaminant level since the carbon replacement.

Water Tower Inspection

The water tower was drained, cleaned and inspected on March 22. The inspection was performed by Dixon Engineering. Preliminary information from Dixon was that the paint appeared to be in good condition. A full written report will be provided by Dixon Engineering.