

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

THE CITY OF LABELLE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM HAS A LEVEL OF TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES WHICH EXCEEDS STANDARDS

SITUATION:

The Department of Environmental Protection requires disinfection of drinking water to inactivate possible pathogens, because the health benefits of disinfection far outweigh its risks. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, some disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBP's). A number of DBP's such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's) may be a health concern at certain levels of exposure.

The Department has reviewed the laboratory analyses results for the quarterly samples for Total Trihalomethanes(TTHMs)collected on March 6, January 30, 2008,December 13,September 26,sept5, Aug 8, and July 11,2007,indicates that the City of LaBelle water system has once again generated a Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) violation for TTHMs, since the running annual adverage MCL for TTHMs was (mathmatically) violated, after only three consecutive quarters of monitoring. Specifically, the average TTHM concentrations for the samples collected during the third (243.13ug/L), and forth(34.44ug/L) calender quarters of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008,(47.3ug/L). Table 3 of Rule 62-550, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), identifies the MCL for TTHMs as 80ug/L.

Therefore, the Department has determined that this system has generated a MCL violation for TTHM's. Table 3 of Rule 72-550, Florida Administrative code (F.A.C.), identifies the MCL as 80ug/L.

Health Effects:

Some people who drink water-containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver,kidneys,or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

WHAT SOULD CUSTOMERS DO?

Recent research results suggest a possible connection between high levels of disinfect ion byproducts such as TTHM's and HAA5s, and pregnancy problems. Therefore, women of childbearing age may wish to seek alternative water sources. Until the problem is corrected, any customer who are concerned about their exposure to TTHM's/HAA5 may wish to use alternative sources of water for ingestion, such as commercial bottled water, or water treated by an appropriate home water treatment device. The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) for reducing TTHM's in drinking water certifies these.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

On November 15, 2007, the City of LaBelle water system submitted a letter to the Department which identified the cause of the high TTHM concentrations in the samples collected on 9/5/07,8/8/07, and 7/11/07, as being due to the polyorthophosphate dosing system not operating properly, this cause the ammonia injector to become clogged. When the ammonia injector becomes clogged, the proper chlorine to ammonia ratio is not maintained, and this resulted in elevated TTHM's in the finished water. The water system replaced the polyorthophosphate dosing pump, and has ordered a spare pump to be kept on hand, and is now keeping track of how much polyorthophosphate is used to insure the chlorine/ammonia ratio.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT Michael Boyle (863) 675-2872, Dan Atkisson (863) 673-0617 OR CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION POTABLE WATER COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT SECTION AT (239) 332-6975

Please share this information with all the 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 distributing copies by hand or mail