

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER.
TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.

The Highridge Water Authority (HWA), which serves people in Derry Township and Burrell Township, recently exceeded the drinking water standard for Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

Your drinking water is routinely monitored for the presence of many drinking water contaminants. Monitoring results received for the Third Quarter 2014 compliance sampling indicated that the water system currently exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for HAAs.

The standard or MCL for HAAs is 60 parts per billion (ppb) based on a running annual average from quarterly sampling. The current annual running average is 80 ppb.

You do not need to use an alternative drinking water supply such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water contaminated with HAAs in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

HWA treats its surface water source and uses chlorine to disinfect it prior to distribution to its customers. Chlorination is the preferred method of public water disinfection and has been in use worldwide for over a century to eliminate such waterborne diseases as cholera and dysentery. Unfortunately, some of the chlorine used for disinfection combines with organic matter naturally present in the surface water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBP's), including HAAs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts Rule to control DBP levels in drinking water. However, the Rule recognizes the risk of disease from drinking water that is not disinfected is more immediate than the increased risk of getting cancer from drinking water containing DBP's over many years.

Highridge's treatment process includes pre-chlorination for disinfection, meaning chlorine is injected before the filtering process. With the advice of its engineering firm and the Department of Environmental Protection, Highridge has agreed to a treatment process of adding 50% of the chlorine prior to water filtration and the remaining 50% of chlorine after water filtration, thereby decreasing DBP levels. Additionally, Highridge is also replacing the filter media at its Tubmill filtration plant, an action that will also reduce the levels of DBP. Meanwhile, Highridge will continue investigating additional treatment techniques to inhibit HAA formation.



HIGHRIDGE WATER AUTHORITY
17 Maple Avenue
Blairsville, PA 15717

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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.

For more information regarding this correspondence, please contact George Sulkosky at 724-459-8033. Additional information can be viewed at www.highridgewater.org.

This notice is being sent to you by:

Highridge Water Authority
PWSID# 5650069
17 Maple Avenue
Blairsville, PA 15717

Date Distributed: October 1, 2014