

## 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.

Highridge Water Authority (HWA) recently violated a drinking water quality standard. Levels of benzo(a)pyrene<sup>1</sup> exceeded maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Although this incident was not an emergency, as a customer, you have the right to know what happened and what was done to correct the situation.

Highridge routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. The MCL for benzo(a)pyrene is .2 parts per billion<sup>2</sup> (ppb). A reading of .56 ppb was discovered in a water sample received August 16, 2017. This was not an immediate risk or you would have been notified immediately. **Subsequently, there was no need to have customers boil water or use bottled water.**

Since water samples taken in the previous two decades and in subsequent sampling results since August 16<sup>th</sup> had no evidence of any benzo(a)pyrene, we believe this elevated sampling to be the result of human error. At DEP's request, however, Highridge shall increase the frequency at which we test for benzo(a)pyrene.

Please don't hesitate to contact Executive Director George Sulkosky at 724-459-8033 should you have additional questions.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Benzo(a)pyrene is a byproduct of incomplete burning of organic material, which is derived from living plants and animals. Benzo(a)pyrene, for example, can be found in charred foods. Furthermore, it gets into the environment when items formed from organic matter such as coal, wood, gasoline, or cigarettes are not completely burned and the residue (smoke, soot, ash) attaches to very small particles that are carried into the atmosphere. If exposed to benzo(a)pyrene in excess of the MCL over many years, a person may experience harmful changes to the nervous system, reproductive organs, kidneys and others. There is a concern that low level, long term exposure increases the risk of cancer.

<sup>2</sup> In terms of percent, .56 parts per billion is .000000056%. A reading of .56 ppb can be visualized as being one second of time in nearly sixteen years.

\* This message is a Tier 2 public notice.