



HIGHRIDGE WATER AUTHORITY

17 Maple Avenue
Blairsville, PA 15717
(724) 459-8033 (724) 459-5629 (fax)
highridgewater.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL EXCEEDANCE**

According to Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Highridge Water Authority (HWA), after two recent samples exceeded the allowable limit for Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) by .0001 parts per million.

What Happened?

As a water supplier, HWA, routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. Results on August 5, 2022 indicated that we exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the above-mentioned compound. A retest taken immediately upon receiving results indicated no evidence of the contaminant. In fact, results for this particular contaminant dating back to the inception of the compound in 1992 have also been zero. We believe the August 5, 2022 occurrence was a lab error.

The acceptable standard by DEP for this contaminant is .0005 parts per million (ppm). The average results for the test and retest were .0006 ppm, therefore we exceeded the maximum contaminant by .0001 ppm. Analogies for .0001 parts per million would be very similar to the following:

- One pinch of salt in 10 tons of potato chips;
- One second in 32 years;
- Your first step in walking around the world 7½ times; and
- One inch in 16,000 miles.

Furthermore, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "No information is available on the chronic, reproductive, developmental, or carcinogenic effects of Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate on humans".

Despite our disagreement with DEP that common sense should prevail where such trivial data is concerned, rules are rules, and Highridge Water Authority understands its obligation to comply with state regulations.

Should Customers Do Anything?

Boiling your water before drinking or cooking is unnecessary. There is no need to use bottled water either. As mentioned earlier, retesting proved no evidence of any contaminant. If you have health concerns however, consult your physician.

Going Forward

Highridge Water Authority apologizes for this event and shall take measures to ensure that it does not reoccur.

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: September 22, 2022