

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 drinking water, some disinfectants combine with organic matter 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 City of LaBelle and these indicate a TTHM concentration for the following dates:

DATE Concentration

Sept 29, 2004 309.0 ug/L

Dec 1, 2004 223.0 ug/L

Apr 14, 2005 209.0 ug/L

Jul 6, 2005 8.0 ug/L

Dec 1, 2005 42.0 ug/L

Feb 22, 2006 9.8 ug/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 80 ug/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 SHOULD CUSTOMERS DO?

Recent research results suggest a possible connection between high levels of disinfection byproducts such as TTHM's, and pregnancy problems. Therefore, women of childbearing age may wish to seek alternative water sources. Until the problem is corrected, any customer who is concerned about their exposure to TTHM's 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?

This water system was required to submit a detailed plan of corrective action to the Department by April 16, 2005. That would address how the aforementioned TTHM MCL violation would be corrected long term. This was accomplished and approved by the Department. This equipment was installed in July of 2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT Michael Boyle (863) 675-2872, Dan Atkisson (863) 673-0617 OR CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL 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.