

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The below is a template provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for water systems to use in keeping residents informed about the presence of disinfection byproducts in their drinking water.

August 18, 2017

City of Mechanicville Drinking Water System Detected Levels of Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for disinfection byproducts. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Additional testing conducted on August 11th confirms that levels are now below that EPA standard.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for the presence of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) on a quarterly basis. The DBPs test results from the last four (4) quarters that ended on June 30, 2017 show that our system exceeds the standard for haloacetic acids (HAA5), a chlorine disinfection byproduct. While recent samples collected last week found levels below the standard, drinking water levels for HAA5 are calculated based on locational running annual averages of samples collected from the last four (4) quarters per EPA guidelines. The HAA5 average over the last four quarters at the Saratoga Avenue testing site was 0.0637 milligrams per liter (mg/L). This value slightly exceeded the EPA drinking water standard for HAA5 of 0.060 mg/L. However, that average is more than 40 times below the EPA levels associated with acute health impact.

What should I do?

At this time, **no** alternative source of water is necessary. However, if you have any specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water containing disinfection byproducts in excess of the drinking water standard over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Again, recent testing confirms the level of this chlorine disinfection byproduct is now below the EPA's standard.

What Happened? What is being done?

When disinfectants are used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants react with naturally occurring organic matter present in water to form DBPs. We are taking/have taken the following corrective actions: assembled a team of engineers, scientists and technicians from Barton & Loguidice; consulted with the NYS Health Department, and are conducting a comprehensive review of the treatment processes including in-depth cleaning of the settling basins and filters, relocating chemical feed points, and hydrant flushing.

If you have any questions, please contact City of Mechanicville at (518) 664-8331.