

Steelton Borough Water Authority

MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 123 NORTH FRONT STREET
STEELTON, PENNSYLVANIA 17113

(717) 939-9842

FAX (717) 986-9084

December 22, 2015

Important Update about Steelton Borough's Water Filtration and Distribution System

Dear Resident:

Over the past two years, the Steelton Borough Authority has invested heavily in maximizing operations at the water treatment plant and approving the capital improvements needed to fully comply with stringent environmental standards.

On October 12th, 2015 the Steelton Borough Authority (also known as the Steelton Water Authority) approved a \$2 million project to construct a chlorine contact tank at the water treatment plant that will maximize our ability to keep levels of disinfectant by-products minimal. As of this letter, the Steelton Borough Authority's engineer has initiated the design and permitting phase of the project. The project is anticipated to be completed in late summer of 2017. The chlorine contact tank is a critical project that will ensure disinfectant byproducts (the result of treating water to eliminate more harmful and immediate bacteria) consistently remain at levels well below the maximum levels mandated by DEP.

The installation of the chlorine contact tank is just one of many capital improvements being made to the Steelton Borough water system. Another major project approved by the Authority is the Water Distribution System Optimization Project. This project will provide comprehensive water system modeling to accurately identify locations in the system that require attention and will also provide capital upgrades to the system including automatic flushers. Work on the Water Distribution System Optimization Project was authorized at the December 14th Steelton Borough Authority meeting.

Any capital improvements like the ones being performed to address the disinfectant byproduct issue take time. While the water system often tests well below the maximum level of disinfectant byproducts allowed by DEP, the quarterly average of DBPs can be above this level.

Enclosed is a public notification about a recent non-emergency violation where the quarterly average of disinfectant byproducts exceeded maximum levels. Please note that as per DEP's directions, you do not have to use an alternative water source. This is a non-emergency issue that will be resolved through the capital improvements stated above.

If you have any additional questions about disinfection by-products or what we are doing, and have done, to ensure your drinking water is safe, please feel free to contact me at 717-939-9842 or Mark Handley at 717-939-0425 Ext. 5110.

Please know that we have worked—and continue to work—diligently to provide the safest drinking water possible. We ask for your patience and understanding as we make the capital improvements needed to address the disinfection byproduct issue.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Brown

Borough Manager

Steelton Water Authority Secretary

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Steelton Borough Authority Has Levels of Trihalomethanes Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. **Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.**

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants.

Testing results we received on 12/21/2015 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Trihalomethanes. The standard for Trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/L. Compliance with the MCL for Trihalomethanes is determined by averaging the four most recent quarterly samples collected at specific sample sites to get the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA). The LRAA for Steelton Borough Authority at site 700 (1700 block of South Cameron Street) was found to be 0.092 mg/L and at site 701 (800 block of South Front Street) was found to be 0.084 mg/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What was done?

Steelton is currently under more stringent Trihalomethane reporting requirements than in the past. These new requirements went into effect for Steelton on October 1, 2013 as part of EPA's Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule to provide additional protection measures beyond previous regulations.

Trihalomethanes are formed when chlorine used to control microbial contaminants reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the source water. Trihalomethanes are also referred to as disinfection by products (DBPs). The formation of Trihalomethanes is greater in warmer weather and when the source water (Susquehanna River) turbidity levels are higher. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

During this monitoring period, the source water had a rain event that increased the turbidity (cloudiness of the water) levels. In order to achieve simultaneous compliance with water filtration and disinfection regulations, increased chlorine dosages were required, which led to the exceedance.

In an effort to address the issues, we continue to work closely with DEP to optimize the existing treatment system in an effort to continually comply with the more stringent Trihalomethane regulatory standards as well as all other treatment standards for the system. Ongoing operation work continues to explore more effective ways to introduce chlorine into the treatment process, improve pretreatment chemical addition to remove organics from the source water, implementation of a more advanced distribution system flushing program and installation of new automatic flushing valves.

On October 12th, 2015 the Steelton Borough Authority approved significant capital improvements with the construction of a chlorine contact tank at the water filtration plant. Construction of the tank has been identified as the most fool-proof way to decrease the formation of disinfection by products in our drinking water in the future.

On site design work is already being conducted on the project as it is a priority of the Steelton Borough Authority. Completion of the chlorine contact tank is a major investment that will help avoid future violations once constructed.

On top of building the chlorine contact tank, the Steelton Borough Authority at its December 2015 meeting approved the Water Distribution System Optimization Project. This project will provide numerous improvements to the water distribution system including installation of automatic flushers and water system modeling that will allow staff to accurately focus on specific parts of the water distribution system. These capital investments will maximize the ability of our water system to meet current requirements.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Steelton Borough Authority makes the capital improvements needed to address the disinfectant by product issue.

For more information, please contact Mark Handley at 717-939-0425 EXT 5110.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Steelton Borough Authority.

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