

## 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 5/25/2016 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 Locational Running Annual Average for Steelton Borough Authority at site 700 was found to be 0.09016 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 Borough actually tested below maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for Trihalomethanes at both sample locations for this quarter. However, because current results are averaged with the results of the previous three quarters (when TTHM levels were higher) the reported average is still above the MCL.

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 byproducts (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, Steelton Borough water tested below the maximum level for Trihalomethanes but not low enough to bring down the annual running average used to trigger a public notice.

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. The Steelton Water Authority is simultaneously engaging in a Water System Optimization Project and the Chlorine Contact Tank (Disinfectant Byproduct Removal) Project.

The Authority has submitted the funding application to PENNVEST needed to construct the tank and is ahead of schedule on the project. Construction of the tank has been identified as the most foolproof way to decrease the formation of disinfection by products in our drinking water. Completion of the chlorine contact tank is a major investment that will help avoid future violations once constructed.

The Water System Optimization Project also continues to move forward. Modeling of the entire water system—which is needed to pinpoint the areas where improvements will have the greatest effect—has been completed. The Authority is also considering the installation of automatic flushers and agitators at the Steelton Water Reservoirs to supplement work on the chlorine contact tank.

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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