

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 Haloacetic Acids & 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 September 25, 2017, show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) & Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). Haloacetic Acids & Trihalomethanes are formed when chlorine used to control microbial contaminants reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the source water. Haloacetic Acids & Trihalomethanes are also referred to as disinfection by products (DBPs).

The standard for Haloacetic Acids is 0.060 mg/L and the standard for Trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/L. Compliance with the MCL for Haloacetic Acids & 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) for Haloacetic Acids was found to be 0.067 mg/L and the Trihalomethanes was found to be 0.081 mg/L. At site 701 (800 block of South Front Street) the LRAA for Haloacetic Acids was found to be 0.103 mg/L and the Trihalomethanes was found to be 0.094 mg/L.

Please note that the above results reflect the *average* of the past four quarters mainly *before* the chlorine contact tank and other DBP-reduction measures were completed.

The Chlorine Contact Tank was made operational on September 8, 2017. Tests on September 14, 2017, revealed TTHM levels below the maximum allowed. HAA5s were below the MCL before the tank was installed, and were therefore not retested. Despite the lower post-tank test result the LRAA was still above the MCL based on the higher previous quarters. Below is a table comparing results from the most recent testing samples pre-contact tank and post-contact tank:

	Site 700	Site 700	Site 701	Site 701
Sample Date	TTHM*	HAA5**	TTHM*	HAA5**
8/8/2017 – Pre-Tank	0.108	0.032	0.105	0.043
9/14/2017 – Post Tank	0.064	NA	0.061	NA

*TTHM MCL = 0.080

**HAA5 MCL =0.060

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 TTHMs and HAA5s 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 Haloacetic Acids 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.

The formation of Haloacetic Acids & Trihalomethanes is greater in warmer weather and when the source water (Susquehanna River) turbidity levels and organic levels are higher. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

There are a number of rules in addition to the Disinfection Byproduct Rule that all Public Water Systems must comply with. One of these rules is the Surface Water Treatment Rule. This rule requires that the source water be filtered to remove pathogens and disinfected (chlorine) in order to inactivate Giardia and viruses. The Maximum Contaminant Level goals for Giardia and viruses is zero because any exposure to these contaminants presents some level of health risk that is immediate. Violations of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (WHICH THIS IS NOT) require a Tier 1 Boil Water Advisory Public Notification if this requirement is not met.

The amount of chlorine needed to inactivate pathogens that present an immediate health risk is determined by the concentration of the chlorine in the water and the amount of time this chlorine concentration is in contact with the water before it reaches the first customer. In previous quarters, Steelton was chlorinating source water before filtration which resulted in higher DBP levels. However, with the chlorine contact tank now online and other DBP-reduction measures in place, the Water Plant can now chlorinate water post-filtration, which will result in substantially lowered DBP levels. Again, recent post-contact tank samples for HAA5s and TTHMs have been below the MCL. This notice is being sent due to the yearly average being above the MCL which includes 4 samples taken *before* the contact tank was installed and one retest sample taken after the tank was operational. Recent post-contact tank testing and sampling at the Water Filtration Plant shows a trend of reducing DBPs below maximum compliance levels. Staff will continue to take operational actions, coupled with the contact-tank, to ensure this trend continues.

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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Date distributed: _____