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 July 5, 2017, show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Haloacetic Acids & Trihalomethanes. 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 0.070 mg/L and the Trihalomethanes was found to be 0.082 mg/L. At site 701 (800 block of South Front Street) the LRAA for Haloacetic Acids was found to be 0.098 mg/L and the Trihalomethanes was found to be 0.095 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 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.

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 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. As it is now, the only way Steelton can meet this requirement is to chlorinate the source water before it's been treated and filtered. This means that the naturally occurring matter in the source water is not removed before chlorination. As mentioned above, DBP's are formed when chlorine reacts with the organic matter in water.

Steelton is acting to permanently resolve this issue by installing a Chlorine Contact Tank which will allow Steelton to move the main point of chlorination to a point after all treatment processes and filtration have been completed. The treatment processes and the filtration that will occur before water is sent to the contact tank will help remove the majority of the naturally occurring organic matter in the water before it is chlorinated. This should help reduce the formation of DBP's. The construction of the Chlorine Contact Tank began in February 2017 and will be completed and operational by September 2017.

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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