

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Notice of Drinking Water Chemical Overfeed on January 12, 2020

City of St. Clair

Due to the severe weather on January 11-13, 2020, deteriorated raw water quality entering the water plant resulted in feeding a water treatment chemical, aluminum sulfate (alum) at a dose exceeding certified levels. When feeding alum above the certified dose, trace metals or other contaminants may have entered the distribution system. The high alum dosage also caused a change in the usual pH and alkalinity levels. The change in water chemistry itself is not a health concern, but it can cause the water to be more corrosive which could result in the release of metals from water mains and plumbing systems. City crews acted quickly to minimize the amount of impacted water entering the distribution system; however, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency because exposure to any of the potential contaminants is not an acute health risk. City personnel have addressed the immediate concerns. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

What happened?

Drinking water in the City of St. Clair is continuously treated with alum to remove pathogens. At proper concentrations, this water treatment additive helps to assure that customers are provided safe water that meets state and federal requirements. On January 12, 2020, the alum dose at the City of St. Clair was as high as 303 mg/L. There is a concern that trace metals or other contaminants may be above safe limits when the alum dose is above 150 mg/L. Although the intent of feeding a high dosage was to treat dirty water from the storm, feeding any treatment chemical above the certified dosage is a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.

What is being done?

The City made every effort to flush the impacted water from the system. Lab testing was done to determine an alum dose that meets certification levels and treatment objectives. Additional sampling was also performed to address the change in water chemistry, including lead and copper sampling and other corrosion related water quality parameters.

For more information, please contact the City of St. Clair water plant at (810) 329-5276.

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.

CERTIFICATION:

WSSN: 6270

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulations in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Signature: Wanem Rothe Title: City Superintendent Date Distributed: 1-24-20