

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Contains High Levels of Disinfection By-Products

NOTICE OF STANDARD MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL ("MCL") VIOLATIONS

The New Castle water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers in the area of the violation, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) is 0.080 mg/L. The standard for Haloacetic Acids is 0.060 mg/L. Testing results for the First quarter sampling in 2017 showed that our system 12-month rolling average exceeded the maximum contaminant level for TTHMs at one of the two required sample locations. This site is located at the New Castle School. The 12-month running average level of TTHMs at this site was 0.083 mg/L. This is a slight improvement from the Q4 reading but is still above the threshold level of .080.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. 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 experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

What should I do?

It is not necessary to use alternate water; however, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional. General health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Environmental Health Program at (603) 271-4608.

What Caused this Violation? The New Castle Water District receives its water from the Portsmouth Water Division. Unusually warm weather and temperature variations occurred over the winter of 2015/2016 which attributed to higher than normal organics in the surface water supplying our Madbury Water Treatment system in early January. Organics, mixing with chlorinated water are what cause TTHMs to form in drinking water systems. TTHM levels had been decreasing since October 2015; however, the current 12-month running averages include elevated levels for the most current sampling period. TTHM concentrations were 0.100mg/L and 0.080 mg/L in October 2016 at the New Castle School and Shapleigh Island sites, respectively.

Steps We Are Taking: Portsmouth continues to proactively address the evolving water quality regulations related to new, lower, standards for TTHMs. The Portsmouth 2013 Water System Master Plan recommended aeration of the Newington Booster Tank to treat for this parameter. Therefore, a consultant was hired by the City in 2014 to perform preliminary design of that system and to also assist the water operations staff with optimizing treatment system operations to lower the levels of TTHMs. Their recommendations were implemented and a design of the Newington Booster upgrades is underway. It is anticipated that this project design will be complete in the fall of 2017 and will go out to bid after that for construction. Additionally, the Town of New Castle is hiring an engineering firm to determine how to address this issue in the short term.

Stephen Tabbutt of Town of New Castle at (603) 431-6710
49 Main Street, New Castle, NH 03854

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.