



CITY OF WASILLA

Public Works Department

290 East Herning Avenue

Wasilla, Alaska 99654 7091

Phone (907) 373-9016 Fax (907) 373-9011



PUBLIC NOTICE

Wasilla Water System

PWSID# AK224646

Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Wasilla Water System is required to routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Arsenic at the E. Susitna well. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. When groundwater flows through these arsenic deposits, the arsenic is released into the water.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) has lowered the MCL for arsenic in drinking water from 0.05 milligrams per liter (mg/l) to 0.01 mg/l (i.e. from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion). This new MCL is intended to provide added protection against the possible health risks associated with long-term exposure to this contaminant.

Past test results for arsenic in the Wasilla Water System E. Susitna well drinking water tested 13.1 parts per billion (ppm) on September 9, 2013 and 12.1 ppb on September 26, 2013. These arsenic levels met the old drinking water MCL, but are not acceptable now that the new MCL is in effect. Therefore, the system is required to collect quarterly Arsenic samples from the E. Susitna well for one year to determine a Running Annual Average (RAA). If the Arsenic level is above the MCL, the system will be required to install Arsenic treatment.

What should I do? What does this mean?

This is not an immediate public health risk. If it were, you would have been notified immediately.

However, studies have shown that the more you are exposed to arsenic over time, the higher the risk becomes for experiencing health effects. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

People with severely compromised immune system, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



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Potential Health effects of contaminants not sampled for:

Arsenic: Irritation of the stomach and intestines, decreased production of red and white blood cells, skin changes and lung irritation. Increased chances of the development of skin cancer, lung cancer, liver cancer, and lymphatic cancer. Can cause infertility and miscarriages in women. Can cause heart disruptions, and brain damage.

What happened? What was done?

We exceeded routine Arsenic monitoring (sampling) MCL, at this time we have discontinued the use of this well. We are working to install the latest Arsenic treatment to the distribution system. We must continue to conduct routine monitoring in accordance with the Drinking Water Regulations 18 AAC 80. For more information please contact: John Becker at (907) 373-9044 or via email at jbecker@ci.wasilla.ak.us

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being posted by

The City of Wasilla

State Water System ID# AK224646

Date: June 24, 2014