

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ONE MUNICIPAL PLAZA
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Bloomfield Water System Has Levels of Trihalomethanes Above the Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although **this is not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened; what you should do and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On February 29, 2016 we received notice that samples collected on February 11, 2016 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for trihalomethanes. The average level of trihalomethanes at two of four sampling locations was 88.0 µg/L and 82.0 µg/L respectively. The MCL for trihalomethanes is 80 µg/L.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IF IT HAD BEEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS. However, some people who drink trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidney or central nervous system and may have increased risk of getting cancer. The 1st quarter 2016 violation is similar to and associated with the 4th quarter 2015 violation. Notices for that violation were distributed in December of 2015. The township has been actively working toward resolving this violation as indicated below.

What is being done?

1. Although flushing was actively pursued and completed in the Fall, the violation has persisted. The Engineering Department is currently reviewing the flushing program to improve policies and procedures for the next round of hydrant flushing in the Spring of 2016.
2. A capital construction project to eliminate problematic dead-ends was completed in December of 2015. Of note is that one of the dead-end locations where this current MCL violation occurred was eliminated. First quarter results after implementation of this improvement yielded the lowest TTHM concentration in two years at this specific location. However, even with the lower first quarter result, the overall average with the previous three quarters still exceeded the MCL of 80 µg/L. The second dead end where a violation occurred will be eliminated in Phase 2 of the program which is planned for construction in 2016. Therefore the formation of excessive TTHM's is expected to be effectively eliminated once the improvements are operational.
3. The township is also taking supplemental samples at the Newark interconnections to confirm that there is not an issue with the source water supply.

We anticipate trihalomethane levels to continue to decrease by the next sampling and testing period, which is May 2016. However, because the MCL is based upon a running average of four quarters, even reduced TTHM levels in that current quarter may not be low enough to eliminate the violation. Please refer to the Township website for more information on this.

For more information, please contact Paul D. Lasek, P.E., at 973-680-4130 or via e-mail at plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or via mail at the Bloomfield Engineering Department, One Municipal Plaza, Room 203, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

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 the Bloomfield Water Department; State Water System ID#: NJ0702001.

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