

Water Advisory
March 24, 2016

Since the third quarter of 2015, the Bloomfield Water Department has had violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act related to chlorine by-products in the water supply. In this specific case, it was an exceedence of Trihalomethanes. Residents have been provided with a notice of this violation in October of 2015, as well as in December of 2015.

The township samples at four, pre-determined locations within the water distribution system. These locations are representative of the locations where an exceedence of trihalomethanes would most likely occur. In other words, if these locations are below the maximum contaminant level of 80 parts per billion one would assume that the entire system is under 80 parts per billion.

An exceedence or violation is not based upon a single sample but an average of the four samples taken per quarter on a rolling basis. Therefore the exceedence provided in the notices is not an actual reading at any of the four sites but an average of the current and three previous quarter readings. The current readings at each of the four locations from the sampling performed in February of this year are 56, 59, 48 and 56 parts per billion, which are well below the maximum contaminant level of 80 parts per billion. As previously stated since these are worst case areas the assumption is that all of the water within the Bloomfield distribution system is well below 80 parts per billion. However, the township remains in violation of the by-product standard because our average of all four readings still exceeds 80 parts per billion in two locations even though no current location had a level anywhere near 80 parts per billion.

This is a violation of a standard. The Bloomfield Engineering Department is working to bring us back into compliance. All levels of trihalomethanes appear to be going down. However, because we are still factoring in higher levels from past quarters to compute the average, it may take several quarters for the average to dip below 80 parts per billion. We believe the elimination of dead ends, particularly at these problematic locations as well as a new hydrant flushing program and follow-up sampling and testing will result in eventual compliance with the EPA regulations.

The notices sent to you on this issue are not intended to imply that the water is unsafe to drink or needs to be boiled. The notice specifically cites health issues for individuals who drink water with trihalomethanes over 80 parts per billion OVER MANY YEARS. Although the Township's water supply has shown exceedances at times, the water has never been at such elevated levels for an extended period of time. Therefore anyone drinking Bloomfield water has not been exposed to higher levels of trihalomethanes for any extended period of time.

Although this may not provide comfort to all individuals related to consuming Bloomfield water, please be assured that our number one priority is total compliance at all times and we are confident that we will meet that benchmark.