



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF ATHENS TX1070005 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for haloacetic acids (group of five). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for haloacetic acids (group of five) to be 0.060 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for haloacetic acids (group of five) indicates a compliance value in quarter four 2016 of 0.062 mg/L for DBP2-04.

Haloacetic acids are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing HAA5 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

- We have completed the repairs of all existing ground water wells and are increasing use of well water in the system. This water source is lower in organic matter and results in lower levels of HAA5;
- As plant operator, we are currently pursuing modifications to the current treatment system at the surface water treatment plant to reduce HAA5 and other Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) that occur when treating surface water. These modifications will involve the support and partnership of the Athens Municipal Water Authority (AMWA) as the owner of the water treatment plant. Together with AMWA, we are required to seek TCEQ approval for such modifications; and
- We are currently planning for the City's future water infrastructure by working with engineering consultants who specialize in water treatment, distribution, mapping, and water modeling.
- In addition to these steps:
 - We were assessed and have complied with a \$714 administrative penalty from TCEQ which identified these violations that we are currently addressing within TCEQ's specified timeframe;
 - We are systematically rehabilitating our elevated storage tanks, ground storage tanks, and water lines to ensure that we meet TCEQ and American Water Works Association requirements; and
 - We are developing strategic replacement plans for all our current water infrastructure.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Philip Rodriguez or Ryan Adams with the City of Athens at 903-675-5131.

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