IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation for the Brunswick Consolidated Water District

Date distributed: January 23, 2018.

The Town of Brunswick Water Department wants the public to know about a recent violation of drinking water standards. THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. We believe that, as our water customers, you have a right to know all information related to your water quickly. The law requires that we notify the public within thirty days from the time that a violation.

After receiving the results of water samples from the last quarter of 2017. The Town of Brunswick running annual average for the Keyes Lane sample location exceeded the threshold of 80 parts per billion.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from the 4th quarter of 2016 to the 4th quarter of 2017 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is 80 ug/l (micrograms per liter or parts per billion). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at one of our system's locations for these four quarters was 84.63 ug/l.

What are trihalomethanes?

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that are formed in drinking water during disinfection when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. They are disinfection byproducts and include the individual chemicals chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors.

Disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses, and chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. All public water systems that use chlorine as a disinfectant contain trihalomethanes to some degree.

What are the health effects of trihalomethanes?

Some studies suggest that people who drank water containing trihalomethanes for long periods of time (e.g., 20 to 30 years) have an increased risk of certain health effects. These include an increased risk for cancer and for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. The methods used by these studies could not rule out the role of other factors that could have resulted in the observed increased risks. In addition, other similar studies do not show an increased risk for these health effects. Therefore, the evidence from these studies is not strong enough to conclude

that trihalomethanes were a major factor contributing to the observed increased risks for these health effects. Studies of laboratory animals show that some trihalomethanes can cause cancer and adverse reproductive and developmental effects, but at exposures much higher than exposures that could result through normal use of the water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the information from the human and animal studies and concluded that while there is no causal link between disinfection byproducts (including trihalomethanes) and human health effects, the balance of the information warranted stronger regulations that limit the amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water, while still allowing for adequate disinfection. The risks for adverse health effects from trihalomethanes in drinking water are small compared to the risks for illness from drinking inadequately disinfected water.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- 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 an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. 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 is being done?

We are working to minimize the formation of TTHM's while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant. We are taking steps to monitor and lower the Chlorine in our system while still maintaining the proper level for disinfection. The City of Troy our supplier of water is also working to reduce the natural organic matter, and thus reduce the precursors of TTHM formation. We will also increase flushing within the distribution system to reduce or avoid one of the mechanisms controlling their formation (water aging). We will be testing again after we initiate these practices to determine if our efforts were successful and following up with further actions as warranted.

For more information, please contact our The Town of Brunswick Water Department Superintendent, William L Bradley at 518-279-4476 ext. 112 or write to the Town of Brunswick Water Department at 336 Town Office Road, Troy, NY 12180

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 or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you US postal service.

Brunswick Consolidated Water District

State Water System ID#: NY4110144.