

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Rutland City Water Department Levels of TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently exceeded drinking water standards. 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. Testing results were sampled for the last four quarters, ending with the Fourth Quarter of 2007. Results show our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5). The standard for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS ((HAA5) is 0.060 MG/L. The running annual average (last 4 quarters) results were 0.067 MG/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some haloacetic acids have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

What happened?

Chlorine, which is added to the water as a disinfectant, reacts with natural organic matter in the water forming HAA5 over time. The low regulatory limit on HAA5 makes it difficult to avoid exceeding the limit while maintaining an effective level of chlorine. The 0.060 mg/l limit was exceeded by 0.007 mg/l.

What is being done?

The City has been more aggressive with our water system flushing in an effort to reduce the amount of time that water sits in the pipes and reacts with the chlorine. In addition, a layer of sand has been replaced in the water treatment plant in an effort to minimize the amount of organic matter in the water system as a way to minimize HAA5 formation. Despite these efforts, the City has been unable to avoid this most recent exceedance of a drinking water standard. The City is evaluating the feasibility of other water treatment options that could decrease the concentration of HAA5 in drinking water.

For more information, please contact Alan Shelvey at 802-773-1813 or Evan Pilachowski at the same number.

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 Rutland City Water Department.

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