

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS RULE TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION TOWN OF PRINCESS ANNE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM MD0190002

The Town of Princess Anne Water System recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we have done and continue to do to correct and mitigate the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Monitoring results from July 2016 – June 2017 show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The MCL for TTHM is 80 parts per billion (ppb). Compliance with the MCL is determined by averaging all samples collected at each monitoring location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Henson Center monitoring location for July 2016 – June 2017 was 84 ppb. The situation is limited to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Campus water system. Monitoring for July 2016 – June 2017 throughout the Town of Princess Anne found all levels of TTHM below the MCL.

What to do?

As a user of the water there is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take any 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 the drinking water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHMs are for volatile organic chemical which form when chlorine disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the drinking 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?

The Somerset County Sanitary District began reducing the amount of chlorine feed for disinfection to reduce the amount of available chemical for forming TTHMs. We monitored the disinfectant levels closely to insure that we maintained a safe drinking water. We also have started annual flushing of the Town of Princess Anne Water System to remove solids and organic material buildup in the water mains. We have also in cooperation with the UMES Physical Plant personnel began quarterly flushing of the UMES Campus water system to remove contaminants and freshen the water in the system regularly, especially during periods of low use. We began this work in April 2017 and have monitored at least quarterly with all samples being below the MCL. We will continue with the reduced disinfectant levels, flushing and increased monitoring to insure that we maintain TTHM levels below the MCL.

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

For more information contact Earl Ludy at 410-651-0268 or at eludy@somersetmd.us or by mail at Somerset County Sanitary District, P.O. Box 326, Princess Anne, MD. 21853.