

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Clinton Water Department Test Results Indicate Levels of Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes Above Drinking Water Standards

The Town of Clinton water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what The Clinton Water Department is doing to correct the situation.

The Department routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We monitor Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) and Trihalomethanes (THMs) quarterly. Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes are disinfection by-products of chlorine. The use of disinfectants (such as chlorine to kill bacteria and viruses) creates by-products when chlorine reacts with natural matter in the water.

Our most recent testing results collected on February 27, 2007, show that our system exceeds the standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for HAA5s. The standard for HAA5s is 60 parts per billion (PPB) and is based upon a running annual average (RAA). The RAA is the average result of four consecutive quarters of data. The Clinton Water Department's RAA for HAA5s was 63 PPB during the compliance period of January 2007 through March 2007.

Our most recent testing results collected on February 27, 2007, show that our system exceeds the standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for THMs. The standard for THMs is 80 parts per billion (PPB) and is based upon a running annual average (RAA). The RAA is the average result of four consecutive quarters of data. The Clinton Water Department's RAA for THMs was 86 PPB during the compliance period of January 2007 through March 2007.

What should I do?

- You **DO NOT** need to boil your water or use an alternative (bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

- **This is not an immediate risk**, if it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

What happened? What is being done?

- Chlorine is injected into the raw water before the filtration process. The chlorine is reacting with organic compounds in the water and forming disinfection by-products (HAA5s & THMs). On February 9, 2007 the DEP approved our request to add permanganate to our raw water. Permanganate will reduce the need to pre-chlorinate the raw water. The Clinton Water Department is finalizing the modifications needed to start adding the permanganate in order to correct the disinfection by-product problem.
- For more information, please contact The Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher McGown at 978-365-4110 or Water Filtration Plant Operator Robert Sweatland at 978-365-3030.

Please share this information with 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.

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