

January 21, 2022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia.

Disinfection By-Products Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceedance for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) in the Lake Alpine Water Company (LAWC) system

Disinfection By-products (DBPs) are formed in the water distribution system when chlorine used for disinfection reacts with naturally occurring organic carbon (TOC). Organics are present after the decomposition of plant matter and in the runoff in the watershed. By law, LAWC is required to detect chlorine residual at all times in the distributed water. DBPs are regulated by the State in the parts per billion (ppb). It is suspected that prolonged exposure to large amounts of DBPs over an extended period of time can cause cancer. As a result, the State has placed an MCL on two groups of DBPs. These are Total Tri-halomethanes (TTHMs – MCL of 80 ppb) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs – MCL of 60 ppb).

In 2017 we set up a trial filter of granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove TOC from the water prior to chlorine contact. This has worked well and we have been in compliance since January, 2018. However, due to a combination of factors our water system recently failed to meet this drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We monitor for disinfection by-products on a quarterly cycle. Testing results we received on January 17, 2022 from samples collected on January 5, 2022 show that our system exceeded the MCL for Haloacetic Acids, raising the annual average level of Haloacetic Acids to 75.2 ppb.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. You can use a counter top or faucet mounted carbon filter to reduce the amount of chlorine and DBPs at the tap. 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. If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

Characteristics of the lake water quality and distribution system during December, 2021 that contributed to the high DBP results include: high organic content of the lake water,

4.1 ppm as opposed the average of 2.4 ppm, high coliform bacteria count in the lake water, over 1900 units as opposed to seasonal average of under 200 units, long residency time of processed water in the tanks since we reduced system leaks and low removal rates of TOC in the GAC filters, down to 32%. We suspect the increase in TOC and bacteria counts in the lake water this month is due to excessive runoff from the October and November storms that filled the lake quickly. The spillway has been active since November 8. The GAC capacity to adsorb TOCs was exhausted faster than usual as the TOC concentration was twice the annual average.

We will be scrubbing and backwashing the GAC immediately to regain TOC adsorption capacity. We will schedule a GAC exchange as soon as the plant is accessible by truck. We anticipate resolving the problem within 6 months. We collect DBPs samples again in April and July and will provide updated results.

Since early 2020, LAWC has been collaborating with engineers to design and install a redundant GAC filter system, known as a lead/lag series of vessels that will increase the rate and consistency of TOC removal and will have greater GAC capacity for these outlier events. We hope to complete this project by the end of 2023.

For more information, please contact Kimi Johnson at 209-753-2409 or at info@lakealpinewater.com.

Secondary Notification Requirements

The following notification must be given within 10 days [per Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS: Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by the Lake Alpine Water Company.

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