

April 20, 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 total 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 April 19, 2022 from samples collected on April 6, 2022 show that our system exceeded the MCL for Haloacetic Acids, raising the annual average level of Haloacetic Acids to 91.90 ppb.

What should I do?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. 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. 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?

Since November 2021, our sampling indicates higher than usual amounts of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). TOC is usually removed by the granular activated carbon filter

but we haven't been able to filter out enough TOC to control the formation of disinfection byproducts. Water age also allows disinfection byproducts to persist. As we have repaired many leaks over the last three years, water ages in the distribution tanks.

We flushed the system in February and early April to refresh water in the tanks. We also scrubbed and backwashed the GAC to regain TOC adsorption capacity. We have scheduled a GAC exchange now that the roads are cleared and the plant is accessible by truck. We anticipate resolving the problem within 4 months. We are also preparing to convert a second vessel into a GAC filter until we can install the fabricated tanks during the summer of 2023.

We collect DBPs samples again in July and October 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.

State Water System ID number: 021-0001

Date distributed: 04.21.2022