

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Sussex Water Has Violated a Drinking Water Standard

PWS ID#: NJ1921001

Posted: April 17, 2017

Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from March 6th, 2017 showed that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) at 70 µg/L and 60 ug/L respectively. The standard for total trihalomethanes is 80 µg/L and the haloacetic acids is 60 ug/L. It is determined by averaging one sample collected in our system for the last 4 quarters that the level of total trihalomethanes average was 97 µg/L and haloacetic acids is 64 ug/L.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, people with an infant, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. THM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. Haloacetic acids are 6 organic compounds that form similarly.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids 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 Borough of Sussex is currently assessing the situation to identify the cause of the exceedance. Once identified, corrective action will take place to ensure all limits are within specified guidelines.
- The Borough of Sussex has identified a long term solution of relocating the source water intake from the Coleseville Reservoir to Lake Rutherford. In conjunction with Houser Engineering, and other consultants, we will continue to monitor the plant operation closely and investigate all methods to continuously improve water quality and optimize the treatment process such as an alternative disinfectant
- The THM and HAAs violation is chronic in nature and has been occurring since the 3rd quarter of 2015 and 1st quarter 2017. The Borough of Sussex is working closely with NJDEP to develop remediation steps to address the violation. These remediation steps will be finalized and the system will be back in compliance by December 31st, 2017.

For more information, please contact Mike Furrey at (973) 875-6882 or write to the Borough of Sussex, 2 Main Street, Sussex, and NJ 07461

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 Borough of Sussex. Public Water System ID#: NJ1921001.