

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Levels of Disinfection Byproducts Above Drinking Water Standard No Immediate Health Risk Associated with Violation

Ocean City's water system recently was found to be in violation of a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing.

Ocean City routinely monitors for the presence of contaminants. Testing results showed town drinking water exceeded the standard, otherwise known as a maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), a disinfection byproduct.

The MCL standard for TTHMs in drinking water is 80 parts per billion (micrograms per liter). Test results indicate that the average level of TTHMs in Ocean City's drinking water for the period of July 2009 through September 2010 was 83 parts per billion.

TTHMs are chemicals that can form as a byproduct of the drinking water disinfection process. They are the result of reactions that happen through chlorine being added to a drinking water source that contains naturally occurring organic matter.

What does this mean?

There is no immediate health risk associated with having temporarily exceeded the standard. If there had been an immediate risk, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink substantial amounts of water containing trihalomethanes and other disinfection byproducts over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

What actions should be taken?

It is not necessary to take any action, nor is it necessary to switch to an alternative water source. If you have specific health concerns, you may want to consult your family doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Based on the most recent data from October 2010, levels of TTHMs have returned to compliance with the MCL standard. Town of Ocean City officials will continue to monitor the quality of town water and evaluate treatment and operational improvements that will prevent this condition from reoccurring.

For more information, please contact the Ocean City Water Department at 410-524-8388, or Jim Parsons with the Town of Ocean City Department of Public Works at 410-524-7715.

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 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 Town of Ocean City.

State Water System ID#023-0003

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