

City of Sandy *At Your Service*

A Monthly Bulletin of Community News



Stage 2 DBPR HAA5 MCL Violation Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we have done and are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from 2016 show that our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA5. The standard for HAA5 is 0.06 mg/l (or 6.0 parts per hundred million). This is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location over a 12 month period. The Locational Running Annual Average of HAA5 at one sampling location in the system was 0.06165 mg/l (or 6.165 parts per hundred million).

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to 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.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants (chlorine) react with natural organic matter in the water. With the recent connection (April, 2014) to the City of Portland water system a portion of Sandy's water supply is composed of water from an unfiltered source (Bull Run) from which more natural organic matter may be expected. The point at which Sandy connects to the City of Portland system is also near to where Portland adds chlorine to their water and as a result we experience higher than usual disinfectant (chlorine) levels in the water.

People who drink water (one liter per day for 70 years) containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

We are testing several methods of removing these compounds from the water we get from Portland. These include adding pressurized air to the water to break down these compounds and we are looking at reducing the amount of chlorine in the water at the connection to the City of Portland source. The City has signed a compliance agreement with the state Drinking Water Program that requires us to propose a method and develop plans for improvements at our connection to the Portland system that will reduce these compounds by June of this year. Once the state approves the plan we have 18 months to complete these improvements. For more information, please contact Mike Walker at 503-489-2162 or mwalker@ci.sandy.or.us.

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 City of Sandy. State Water System ID#: 4100789

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