Public Notice: City of Burkburnett

The City of Burkburnett received written notification from The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate from a sample taken November 9th, 2021, which showed a result of 29 mg/L.

After receiving the notification, City staff began an immediate investigation into the 29 mg/L sample result. Staff spoke with TCEQ regarding the sample result and explained that the result appeared to be a mistake because our raw water or source water that we pump from the Seymour aquifer does not have nitrate levels as high as 29 mg/L. Below is a timeline of our sample results to include the samples reported by TCEQ: (all samples are completed by an accredited and approved TCEQ laboratory)

- 10-05-2021 Finished water .798 mg/L
- 10-13-2021 Finished water 1.53 mg/L
- 11-09-2021 Finished water 29.0 mg/L (TCEQ)
- 11-16-2021 Finished water 5.8 mg/L
- 11-16-2021 Raw water 12.5 mg/L
- 1-25-2022 Finished water 2.65 mg/L
- 1-25-2022 Raw water 13.0 mg/L
- 1-25-2022 Finished water 9.85 mg/L (TCEQ)
- 1-25-2022 Finished water 6.65 mg/L (TCEQ)
- 3-2-2022 Finished water 2.5 mg/L
- 3-2-2022 Raw water 11.8 mg/L

As you can see, all sample results have complied with the required 10 mg/L Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) except the sample taken by TCEQ on 11-09-2021. Also, the raw water samples results are lower than the finished water result of 29 mg/L taken on 11-09-2021. City staff has discussed the sampling results with TCEQ and posed the issue of receiving a higher sample result after treatment than the raw or source water nitrate levels. However, TCEQ still requires the City to issue their template notice for a single sample nitrate exceedance even though we believe it could have been a “bad” sample with inaccurate results. We will continue to monitor the nitrate levels carefully to ensure compliance with Federal and State drinking water standards.

Below is the required template:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the PWS TX2430005 – CITY OF BURKBURNETT public water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for nitrate to be 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a single sample and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for nitrate indicates a compliance value in quarter #4 2021 of 29 mg/L.
Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. If your child is under the age of six months, the child **must** be given an alternative water supply for any consumption. Boiling the affected water is **not** an effective treatment for nitrate removal.

Most consumers do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. At this time, the health effects to fetuses of pregnant women are unclear. If you are pregnant, you may also choose to use an alternative source of water for drinking and cooking purposes.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:
(See above reference)

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Mike Whaley at 940-569-2263, EXT 1004.

*Posted on 3/17/22*