Public Notice: City of Burkburnett

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 #2 2022 of 13.6 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.

The City of Burkburnett is taking the following actions to address this issue:

The City of Burkburnett currently operates an ion exchange water treatment plant, which is designed to lower the level of nitrate in our public drinking water. Once the City staff was notified of the spike in nitrate by TCEQ, production of the well water treatment plant was halted, and we began to purchase water from Wichita Falls. By blending the well water with water purchased from Wichita Falls, the City effectively lowered the nitrate levels in the drinking water. We have taken additional samples. We have a confirmed nitrate result located at the South elevated tower on Kramer Rd of 4.96 mg/L and are awaiting additional sample results. If you require an alternate water supply as previously referenced, we ask that after you purchase the drinking water, simply bring the receipt to City Hall at 501 Sheppard Rd for reimbursement. The alternate water will be provided until the remaining nitrate sample is in compliance with the 10 mg/L requirement. It is of high importance to our organization and community that we successfully deal with the nitrate levels found in our drinking water. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.