

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

### **Ebensburg Water System Has Levels of TTHM and HAA5 Above Drinking Water Standards**

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 did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received in August 2016 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (5) a by-product of disinfection using chlorine. The standard or maximum level for Trihalomethane is 80 ppb our results were 81 ppb. The maximum level for HAA (5) is 60 ppb our results were 75 ppb. The high test results were found in a sample collected at the Ebensburg Airport on Admiral Peary Highway. Contaminant levels for TTHM and HAA5 are calculated on an average value of samples collected yearly on a quarterly period.

#### **What should I do?**

**You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water contaminated with TTHM and HAAs in excess of the MCL **over many years** may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Because test results are frequently near the maximum levels and fluctuate through the year we have directed our Municipal Authority Engineer to evaluate the situation to determine the best corrective action to eliminate future violations.

#### **What happened? What was done?**

TTHM and HAA5 are byproducts of chlorine that is used to disinfect drinking water. Elevated levels occur most often in sections of the distribution system that have low flows, such as dead end lines with few customers. We don't have any estimate at this time as to when the problem will be eliminated and future test results maybe above and below the maximum level. Our engineer is working on specifications to eliminate the HAA and THM from the source water. When the solution is determined we will need DEP to approve the project before installation. Until the removal system is installed we will continue to flush the lines in the area identified as having a problem to reduce the by-products.

Disinfection byproducts (DBPs), Byproduct Precursors, and Disinfectant Residuals: Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water, including trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).

For more information, please contact Jeff Evans at 814-472-8780.

*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 Ebensburg Borough Municipal Authority.