

Sonterra Municipal Utility District
Notice of Change in Water Supply Disinfectant from Free Chlorine to Chloramines

Sonterra Municipal Utility District (the District) will begin purchasing surface water treated with chloramines, which is a disinfectant to prevent waterborne disease, in May 2020. The use of this surface water supply will require the District to change its ground water disinfectant process from free chlorine to chloramines to allow the new surface water supply to be blended with the existing ground water supply.

The following public notification has been prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for distribution to all customers of the District's Public Water System. **If you have any questions or additional information is required, please contact the District's water system operator, Crossroads Utility Services, at (512) 746-2628.**

On May 1, 2020, Sonterra Municipal Utility District will be changing the disinfectant that we use from chlorine to chloramines. This change is intended to benefit our customers by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease.

However, the change to chloramines can cause problems to persons dependent on dialysis machines. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, the pretreatment scheme used for the dialysis units must include some means, such as a charcoal filter, for removing the chloramine prior to this date. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment. In addition, chloraminated water may be toxic to fish. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters that you are using are designed for use in water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you used for fish tanks.

When the chloraminated water first flushes out the chlorinated water, there may be a slight taste and odor, and possibly discoloration, for a short period of time. This will not compromise the safety of the water.