

**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.

## **Sonterra Municipal Utility District Update on New Regional Surface Water Supply – April 2020**

Sonterra Municipal Utility District (the District) is in the final stages of completion of a multi-year effort to improve the quality and reliability of the drinking water supplied to our rapidly growing community. The District, in coordination with the Lone Star Regional Water Authority (LSRWA), will begin purchasing surface water from the Brazos River Authority (BRA) in May 2020. The new surface water supply will be treated by the BRA and distributed from Lake Granger, which is located approximately 20 miles east of Jarrell.

In May 2020, the District will change the disinfectant of its local groundwater supplies from free chlorine to chloramines to accommodate blending of its existing groundwater supplies with the new surface water supply. Enclosed is a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) notice of the disinfection change. This update is being provided as a supplement to the TCEQ notification.

Blending the new surface water supply with existing groundwater supplies will improve water quality by reducing the fluoride levels in the drinking water provided to the District's customers. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral contained in local groundwater. In addition, the new surface water supply will ensure a more reliable source of drinking water for existing customers as well as future growth within the District's service area, which is projected to include approximately 28,000 people by 2035. The following includes a brief timeline of the District's multi-year effort:

1. In 2011, the District led a regional effort to form the LSRWA, which was created by the Texas Legislature. The LSRWA's mission is to finance and develop long term regional water supplies for northern Williamson County.
2. In 2015, the District, Jarrell, and Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Corporation entered into a contract with the LSRWA to obtain a surface water supply from the Brazos River Authority's surface water treatment plant located on Lake Granger.
3. In 2015, the LSRWA was awarded financing from the Texas Water Development Board's State Water Implementation Fund (SWIFT) to construct a water transmission pipeline from Hwy 95 in Circleville to a series of delivery points near Jarrell.
4. In March 2020, the LSRWA completed the construction of its 24-inch water transmission pipeline, two booster pump stations, two 500,000 gallon ground storage tanks, and a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank with capacity to deliver up to 10,500,000 gallons per day of drinking water supply from Lake Granger for a total project cost of over \$29 Million, 54% of which will be paid by the District out of future rate revenues.
5. In April 2020, the District's water treatment plant upgrade project that is necessary to accept and blend the new surface water supply with its local groundwater supplies is projected to be complete. The cost of this project, \$950,000, has been financed through tax supported bonds and will be paid by the District through future debt service taxes.

A water rate increase is necessary to pay the District's share of costs of the LSRWA debt and the cost of the surface water supply. This rate increase, projected to be 10%, is expected to be implemented effective with the District's April 2020 billing cycle.

If there are any questions or additional information is required, please contact the District's water system operator, Crossroads Utility Services, at (512) 246-5927.