

Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level Violation

MCL, AVERAGE/FLUORIDE

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the SONTERRA MUD TX2460157 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for fluoride. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for fluoride to be 4.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on running annual average (RAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for fluoride indicates a compliance value in quarter two 2017 of 4.3 mg/L for EP002.

This is not an emergency. However, some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

An alternate source of water should be provided to the affected population, which consists of children less than nine years old. The alternate water should be used for drinking and cooking only. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

Sonterra M.U.D. remains aware of the elevated levels of fluoride. Well #1, which was determined to be the source of high fluoride levels in Entry Point (EP) No. 002, has been taken off-line. Weekly testing of fluoride levels has been instituted and results are being posted weekly on the District's website. Construction is underway for a new Trinity Aquifer water supply well within the public water system that is intended to supply water containing fluoride levels less than the MCL set by the EPA. This new water source, in conjunction with the existing Edwards Aquifer water wells within the system, will provide blended water containing fluoride levels within the allowable limits. Sonterra M.U.D. has partnered with the Lone Star Regional Water Authority to obtain a regional surface water source from the Brazos River Authority. This surface water supply will provide an additional source of blending water to reduce fluoride levels. The District has authorized the purchase and installation of a Reverse Osmosis water filling station to enable residents who wish to provide their children under the age of nine with an alternate drinking water supply to do so more conveniently. This station is expected to be on-line in September. Additionally, the District is also continuing its efforts to obtain a supplemental water supply from the City of Jarrell, including work to expedite the construction of a segment of the future Lone Star Regional Water Authority surface water supply line that could be used to deliver water to our water system.

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 William Abshire at (512) 246-1400.

Posted/Delivered on: August 30, 2017