

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Alfred H. Foxx, Director
Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 6th Floor
200 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 30, 2010

Dear Customer:


Enclosed is a public notice required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding your drinking water system. This notice is not an emergency, nor does it require customers to do anything differently from what they normally do with their drinking water.

The requirement to cover or treat open finished water storage reservoirs is to provide additional protection against organisms which can cause gastrointestinal illnesses. As shown in the City's Annual Water Quality Report, testing for the presence of microbiological contaminants in the raw water were at levels that were either not detectable, or were detected in less than 1% of all samples, well below the 5% threshold set by the EPA.

Persons who have compromised immune systems should always check with their healthcare provider on what precautions they should take as part of their daily routine.

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Department of Public Works at 410.396.3500, or write to Mr. Alfred H. Foxx, Director, Department of Public Works, 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Respectfully,



ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR

Enclosure

Visit our website @ www.baltimorecity.gov

DRINKING WATER NOTICE FACT SHEET

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for assuring that federal laws and regulations governing the safety of our drinking water are followed.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act establishes certain standards to be followed in the treating of drinking water, and through regulations, sets the acceptable levels of various compounds and contaminants in finished water.

The Baltimore City water system is one of the oldest public water supply systems in Maryland. Our city and the surrounding metropolitan area receives high quality raw water through its reservoir system, and the City treats and delivers high quality treated drinking water to 1.8 million customers.

Our customers are receiving the Annual Water Quality Report in their quarterly water bills that discusses the water collection, treatment and delivery processes and provides a summary of the results of water quality testing we performed during the year.

The Annual Water Quality Report is an EPA requirement to educate and inform our customers on the quality of their drinking water. Our water quality testing continues to show the excellence of our water supply and the low levels of organic compounds, metals, and disease-causing organisms in our raw and finished water supply.

Part of the City's drinking water distribution system includes 5 open finished water reservoirs. The water from these facilities receives additional disinfection (chlorine) before leaving these storage areas for distribution.

In 2006 the EPA issued a rule that requires one of the following to occur by April 1, 2009: covering the open finished water storage reservoirs; treating the fished water for certain disease-causing organisms; or complying with a State-approved schedule to meet the covering or treating requirements. Baltimore City submitted a proposed schedule to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for approval.

On April 1, 2009 MDE formally approved the City's schedule to cover or treat the open storage areas by December 31, 2018. The schedule calls for replacing 3 of the open reservoirs with enclosed tanks and treating the 2 remaining reservoirs.

Open Reservoir	Action	End Date (Beneficial Use)
Towson	Covered	May 31, 2013
Montebello WFP2	Covered	June 30, 2014
Guilford	Covered	February 16, 2016
Druid Lake	Treated	June 25, 2018
Ashburton Lake	Treated	December 31, 2018

On July 20, 2009 EPA issued a Notice of Violation to the City. EPA contended the State-approved schedule was not an enforceable agreement because MDE did not have authority over this matter. Because of this decision by EPA, the City is required to issue a notice to the public about this compliance violation.

This public notice is not an emergency, nor does it require customers to do anything differently from what they normally do with their drinking water. Persons who have compromised immune systems should always check with their healthcare provider on what precautions they should take as part of their daily routine.

The requirement to cover or treat open finished water storage reservoirs is to provide additional protection against organisms which can cause gastrointestinal illnesses. As shown in the Annual Water Quality Report, the City's testing for the presence of microbiological contaminants in the raw water were at levels that were either not detectable or were detected in less than 1% of the samples, well below the 5% threshold set by the EPA.

Cryptosporidium is a single-cell parasite that can be found in surface water supplies such as the City's reservoirs and can cause gastrointestinal illness. The Annual Water Quality report shows that separate testing results for the untreated waters of Liberty and Loch Raven reservoirs did not detect the presence of cryptosporidium, and test results of the Susquehanna River water showed minimal presence of the organism.

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Department of Public Works at 410-396-3500, or write to Mr. Alfred H. Foxx, Acting Director, Department of Public Works, 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

July 30, 2010

Public Notification

30-Day Drinking Water Notice

In January, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) promulgated Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (“LT2”) to protect public health from illness due to *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial pathogens found in sources of drinking water. EPA is concerned that uncovered finished water storage facilities can lead to degradation of water quality and health risks, and is therefore requiring public water systems to meet the conditions listed below.

By April 1, 2009, water systems were required to:

- (1) cover any uncovered finished drinking water storage facilities; or
- (2) treat the discharge from the uncovered finished water storage facility for viruses and other microbes using a protocol approved by the State; or
- (3) be in compliance with a State-approved schedule to meet conditions (1) and/or (2).

The City chose to comply with condition (3) above, which is to be in compliance by April 1, 2009 with a State-approved schedule for covering its five open drinking water storage facilities and/or installing treatment facilities that treat the drinking water prior to being discharged into the distribution system.

In accordance with condition (3) above, on January 12, 2009, the City submitted a proposed schedule (Schedule) to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The initial schedule was changed as requested by MDE and resubmitted on March 31, 2009. On April 1, 2009, the MDE approved the City’s Schedule to cover or treat discharge from these uncovered finished water storage reservoirs by December 31, 2018. The City currently plans to replace three of the reservoirs with tanks, and to install treatment facilities at the other two reservoirs.

On July 20, 2009, the EPA issued a Notice of Violation because the City’s Schedule should have been incorporated into an enforceable agreement by April 1, 2009. The City contends it did not receive MDE’s proposed settlement agreement (Settlement Agreement) until May 8, 2009. On September 2, 2009, the City signed the Settlement Agreement with the MDE, which incorporated the Schedule that MDE had approved on April 1, 2009.

The EPA maintains that the City failed to comply with LT2 because it failed to sign an enforceable agreement for its Schedule by the April 1, 2009 deadline. Such a violation of drinking water regulations requires the City to issue a notice to the public for this violation of the LT2.

What does this mean?

An uncovered reservoir used to store treated drinking water is susceptible to contamination from animals, such as birds or insects. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause such symptoms as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not cause only by organism in drinking water, but also by other factors.

What Should I do?

This situation is not an emergency; you would have been notified immediately if it had been. There is nothing you need to do. If you have specific health concerns about yourself or persons who may be at risk, such as young children, elderly residents, or persons with severely compromised immune systems (those undergoing chemotherapy, those who are HIV-positive, or have other immune system problems) you may wish to consult your health care provider. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800)426-4791.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

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 by distributing copies by hand or mail.

Esta nota contiene información importante sobre el agua potable. Hable con alguien que la entienda o que se la pueda traducir.

What is being done by the City?

The City is continuing to move toward implementation of cover and treatment options for each of the five reservoirs in accordance with the following Schedule.

- 1) Towson Finished Water Reservoir projected construction substantial completion – May 31, 2013.
- 2) Montebello WFP 2 Finished Water Reservoir projected construction substantial completion – June 30, 2014.
- 3) Guilford Finished Water Reservoir projected construction substantial completion – February 16, 2016.
- 4) Druid Lake projected construction substantial completion – June 25, 2018.
- 5) Ashburton Lake projected construction substantial completion – December 31, 2018.

The City of Baltimore routinely monitors the water quality of the entire System and has implemented enhanced disinfection efforts at each facility to provide an interim public health and safety protection level until the permanent improvements are completed.

For more information, including a copy of the Schedule for bringing the City's uncovered reservoirs into compliance with the LT2, please contact the Baltimore Department of Public Works at (410) 396-3310 or write to Mr. Alfred H. Foxx, Director of Public Works, 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

This notice is being sent to you by the Baltimore Department of Public Works. Public Water System ID# MD0300002,

Sent: July 30, 2010