

From: Orange County Water Control and Improvement District No 1

To: All Water Customers

Subject: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Orange County WCID #1 (District) has been notified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that the water this system supplies has exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), as set out in the Commission's Drinking Water Standards.

The District routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from **Quarter 3** of 2018 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum, contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is **0.080** mg/l. For **Quarter 3 of 2018** the level of TTHM averaged **0.082** mg/l for sample site DBP2-01, **0.090**mg/l for sample site DBP2-03, and **0.096**mg/l for sample site DBP2-04.

What are Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)?

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring matter in the water.

What does this notice mean to customers?

This is **not an emergency**. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

You **do not need to use an alternative water supply**. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

District's staff, engineers, and water quality consultant have worked very hard to find a solution to this complex problem and recommended the District construct an air stripper to remove TTHMs from the water:

- 1. Construction has been completed at Water Well No. 7 on a low-profile air stripper which will remove TTHM's from the water before it is pumped into the distribution system. After some technical difficulties were resolved the air stripper was placed into service and will remove enough TTHM's to yield a blended water with TTHM levels below the maximum regulated level.**
- 2. Our customers, however, will continue to receive these notices quarterly until a 4-quarter-average compliance is achieved, which is expected to require at least two quarters going forward.**
- 3. Customers are receiving two of these Public Notice letters in one mailing representing the individual results of Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2018.**

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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Orange County Water Control & Improvement District No. 1 at 409-769-2669. **Please visit the District's website** at www.ocwc1.com/ for more information.

Posted / Delivered on: November 29, 2018.

Norman Blackman
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Orange County WC&ID No. 1