

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 4** 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 4 of 2018** the level of TTHM averaged **0.085 mg/l** for sample site DBP2-01, **0.085mg/l** for DBP2-02, **0.086mg/l** for sample site DBP2-03, and **0.095mg/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. The air stripper was put into continuous service on November 13, 2018. The District is in the process of accumulating data to determine the effectiveness of the air stripper.
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.

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.

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Norman Blackman
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Orange County WC&ID No. 1