

Drinking Water Notice

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. We routinely monitor our water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples taken on August 10th showed turbidity levels of 1.489 turbidity units. This is above the standard of 1 turbidity unit.

The cause was a faulty air valve, which allowed air to become entrapped in a pipe at the plant, and to enter the equipment designed to measure the turbidity level, causing the exceedance. We have remedied the problem by rebuilding the air valve, and installing a means to bleed air, should the problem with the air valve reoccur in the future.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil the water or take other precautions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly people may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What does this mean?

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

Turbidity has no health effects. However turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

As explained above, the cause has been identified (faulty air release valve) and remedied, along with provisions to bleed entrained air manually if needed. For more information, please contact Bob Disch at (740) 283-6041 or 1575 University Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio, 43952.

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Water Hotline at 1-(800) 426-4791.

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