Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level Violation
MCL, LRAA/TTHM

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the **CITY OF PORT LAVACA** water system that the drinking water being supplied to its customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes at 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value in quarter three 2014 of 0.094 mg/L for DBP2-01, 0.113 mg/L for DBP2-02, 0.096 mg/L for DBP2-03, 0.101 mg/L for DBP2-04.

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 organic matter in the water.

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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

Biofilms build up naturally and over time in the pipe walls of all drinking water systems with a surface water source, and they are known to harbor bacteria and pathogens. Therefore, GBRA annually utilizes over an approximate 30 day period in late summer, an alternate method of disinfection by switching from monochloramines to free chlorine to control biofilm in our water distribution system. During the 30 day alternate disinfection period, the level of trihalomethanes in the water temporarily elevates to above 0.080 mg/L. Shortly thereafter when the water system reverts back to monochloramines, the trihalomethanes level drops back to below 0.080 mg/L, which is the norm for most of the year. Therefore, the annual average limit for trihalomethanes is not typically exceeded, since the limit is based on locational annual average test results. During their most recent quarterly sampling period, TCEQ's contract sampler collected drinking water samples from the distribution system during the alternate disinfection period of September 2014. These samples, which when analyzed in the lab exceeded the limit of 0.080 mg/L, were then used as the representative sample results for the entire quarter (90 days) , as opposed to the 30 day period (of temporarily elevated trihalomethanes) which these samples actually represent. The inclusion of this temporarily elevated figure in the "running" annual average of four quarters created a mathematical violation of the MCL for trihalomethanes.

To prevent a reoccurrence of this anomaly, the City and its supplier, GBRA, will work closely with TCEQ to assure that quarterly drinking water samples are truly representative of the typical superior quality of water delivered throughout that quarter and the year. Also, GBRA will be incorporating an established process at the water treatment plant to reduce the precursors that are known to form trihalomethanes.

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 any questions regarding this matter, you may contact City of Port Lavaca at (361) 552-3347 or GBRA at 552-9751.