

Clermont County Water Resources Department recently mailed to all its customers a notice regarding an exceedance for the maximum contaminant level for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). The exceedance is considered a Tier 2 violation by Ohio EPA and requires that we notify all customers using the Ohio EPA approved document.

### **Additional Information on TTHMs**

The Ohio EPA requires that Clermont County collect TTHM samples from eight assigned locations, four times a year. These sites are located at/near:

- Goshen Road near Goshen Schools
- Newtonsville
- Owensville
- SR 131 near Buckwheat Road
- Branch Hill Guinea Pike at Arrowhead Apartments in Loveland
- Bauer Road near SR 32 in Batavia
- Wards Corner Road near I-275 in Loveland
- SR 131 at SR 132 in Williams Corner

Samples are collected each year in March, June, September and December. A violation occurs when the average of four consecutive samples or the running annual average exceeds 0.080 milligrams/liter. The average of the last four samples at the Newtonsville site was 0.081 mg/L. The running annual average at the seven other sites were all below 0.080 mg/L and were not in violation. However, per Ohio EPA requirements, if the average at one sample location exceeds 0.080 mg/L, we are required to notify all customers. *The only sample location that had an exceedance was at the Newtonsville site.*

TTHM's are a disinfection byproduct (DBP) that are formed when organics in the water react with residual chlorine in the water. TTHM production is also a factor of water age...the older the water is, the more TTHM's / DBP's are produced. The sample sites are selected by OEPA and are intended to represent the oldest water (worst case scenario) in our distribution system.

As indicated on the Drinking Water Notice, You DO NOT need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply and you DO NOT need to boil your water for consumption. The levels detected do not pose an immediate risk to your health.

There have been many studies on the health effects of exposure to disinfection byproducts. Although some studies indicate the potential for both short and long-term adverse health effects, others do not. Some potential health effects include cancer, as well as reproductive and developmental disorders. There is still a lot of uncertainty regarding any one individual's risk when exposed to levels of disinfection byproducts above the maximum contaminant level. If you have medical concerns, we are recommending that you speak with your doctor.

### What are we doing to help prevent this from happening again?

Water age and the amount of organics in the water affect TTHM formation. To help reduce water age, we have modified valving within our distribution system and increased flushing of specific fire hydrants. Operation of the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) facility at the Bob McEwen Water (BMW) Treatment

Plant has also been adjusted to help remove more organics from the water. This approach is working and we recently collected follow-up samples from the location of the MCL violation and found that TTHM concentrations have since been reduced to 0.0567 mg/L. We will continue to investigate other mitigation alternatives and implement them to further reduce TTHM formation in the future.

Please contact Tim Neyer (513-732-7945 or [tneyer@clermontcountyohio.gov](mailto:tneyer@clermontcountyohio.gov)) for more information.

A copy of the Drinking Water Notice, Ohio EPA Fact Sheet and additional information is posted on the Water Resources Website at: <https://wrd.clermontcountyohio.gov/2019/02/19/tthm-notice-of-violation/>