

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Van Wert Water Plant Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples for January 2011 showed that 10 percent of turbidity measurements were over .3 turbidity units – the standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed .3 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern. The period of turbidity exceedances were from 04JAN 11 to 07 JAN 11. The highest singular turbidity was 2.52 NTU on 06 JAN 11.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. 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 may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. *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.* These symptoms 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?

Several months ago, the Water Treatment Plant changed the treatment process to help deal with high raw water turbidity that is expected during the winter filling of the reservoirs. Unfortunately, the change was not as effective as we thought nor capable of handling the turbidity levels created by the current filling of the reservoirs. The plant process has been changed back to the previous operation and is now producing water in compliance with EPA requirements. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are < .3 units. The city of Van Wert operates a conventional filtration treatment plant. Additional details and water quality information during calendar year 2009 are available in the Water Quality Report.

For more information, please contact Donald Lippi at 419-238-1417 or 515 E. Main St, Van Wert, OH 45891.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Van Wert Water. State Water System ID#: OH8100611.
Date distributed: 3/1/11.