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OFFICE OF: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Belleville Water Department Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) Samples Indicate Non-Compliance with a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and, Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Samples Indicate Non-Compliance with a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Over One Year

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard and a New Jersey drinking water requirement. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA5. The standard for HAA5 is 60 parts per billion. It is determined by averaging all samples collected at each sampling location for the last 12 months. The levels of HAA5 averaged at two of our system's four locations for October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 were 63 and 62 parts per billion respectively.

In addition, our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water system into compliance with applicable MCL(s) within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system failed to regulatory comply with the TTHM MCL violation by the one-year deadline of December 11, 2019. You were previously notified of the TTHM MCL violation in public notices issued on January 3, 2019; March 26, 2019; July 3, 2019; and September 25, 2019. Our testing results from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 show that our system did not exceed the MCL for TTHM of 80 parts per billion; however, we need 2 consecutive calendar quarters in compliance with the applicable MCL to return to regulatory compliance. *Our water system previously failed to notify its customers of a TTHM MCL violation incurred during April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016 that was previously returned to compliance prior to re-exceeding in 2018.*

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- There are no short-term health risks. To have any long-term risks, a person would have to drink 64 ounces of water every day (8 – 8 oz. glasses) at the MCL for 70 years to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the possible adverse health effects related to disinfection byproducts (DBPs) such as HAA5 and TTHM.
- If you have a severely compromised immune systems, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water

What does this mean?

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

HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds and TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals, which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. They are commonly known as DBPs.

People who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

- The Belleville Water Department does not treat our drinking water, it purchases treated water from the City of Newark
- The City of Newark has implemented a remedial treatment plan for the source water coming into Belleville to reduce DBP's prior to entering our distribution system, and, said remedial treatment has significantly reduced the DBP levels this past quarter. The City of Newark began treating their water with potassium permanganate on July 9, 2019.
- We are evaluating methods to reduce the levels of disinfection byproducts in our water distribution system
- The Belleville Water Department conducted hydrant flushing in the water distribution system throughout 2019, and will continue in 2020
- The Belleville Water Department will be commencing a valve exercising program to make sure the valves are functioning properly, if they are not the valves will be replaced
- The Belleville Water Department will take samples for HAA5 and TTHM in February 2020. The trend is that the levels of DBP samples will be lower than the MCL.

For more information, please contact the Belleville Water Department at 973-450-3412 or 152 Washington Avenue, Belleville, NJ 07109.

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 the Belleville Water Department. State Water System ID# NJ0701001.

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