

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Notice of Drinking Water Chemical Overfeed in September and October 2024

City of Benton Harbor

The feed rate of sodium hypochlorite exceeded the maximum use level at the Water Treatment Plant during a portion of September and October of this year. When feeding the disinfectant above the maximum use level, trace contaminants could be present and therefore we could not be certain of the water quality during that time.

What Should I Do?

There is nothing you need to do. This is not an emergency because exposure to any of the potential contaminants was not an acute health risk. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

What Happened?

Drinking water in the City of Benton Harbor is continuously treated with disinfectant to control microbial growth in the distribution system. At proper concentrations, this water treatment additive helps to ensure that customers are provided with water that meets state and federal requirements. The Benton Harbor Water Treatment Plant uses a Sodium Hypochlorite solution to maintain residual chlorine in the City's water distribution system (or piping). During September and October 2024, there were 21 days scattered over that period that the disinfectant dose at the Benton Harbor Water Treatment Plant was above the max use for the chemical. At that level there is a concern that trace contaminants may be present in the hypochlorite solution at amounts higher than what should be in drinking water. **The reason the chemical was fed at a high dosage rate was to maintain the necessary disinfectant residual as required, feeding any treatment chemical above the max use level is a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.**

What Is Being Done?

The City has excessive chemical storage. With sodium hypochlorite this is an issue because the strength of the chemical goes down over time, so to reach the same level of disinfection you must feed it at a higher rate. To resolve this issue the city has received a new shipment of Social Hypochlorite in October and the City is assessing the storage conditions to make improvements and reduce the risk of product degradation. Currently, smaller shipments are being ordered to resolve the problem.

For more information or if you notice water quality problems, please contact the office of the City Manager, at (269) 927-8457.

Please share this information with all 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.

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulations in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

		
Signature	Title	Date Distributed