

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Newport Water Division detected elevated Fluoride levels above Drinking Water Standards

The City of Newport water system violated a drinking water standard in the month of December, 2010. Although this was not *an emergency*, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation. Specifically the drinking water provided by Newport from the had a fluoride concentration which exceeded the EPA Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l). The drinking water provided by Newport from the Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant had a fluoride concentration of 2.05 mg/L on December 11, 2010. Water from the Station 1 Water treatment plant was not affected by this violation.

Elevated fluoride levels may cause a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis).

Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Primary Maximum Contaminant Level drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride, but we are required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2.0 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

There are no actions you need to take at this time. You do not need to use an alternative (i.e. bottled) water supply. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective action.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The fluoride feed system at the Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant consists of a rotary feed hopper that dispenses granular fluoride into the water stream via a slurry mix. Plant staff are directed to maintain a daily fluoride concentration of between 0.8 mg/l and 1.2 mg/l. The fluoride feed system which was installed in 1965, malfunctioned on December 11, 2010. The equipment malfunction was not noted until after the required daily sampling and analysis which produced the high reading of 2.05 mg/l.

The fluoride dispensing equipment is being equipped with a new in-line fluoride analyzer which will constantly monitor fluoride concentrations in the water. High and low set point alarms will be established as alarms to better regulate the feed rate into the water supply system. Standard Operating Procedures for the application of fluoride have been revised to better instruct operators on adjusting the feed rate of fluoride into the system which will minimize any reoccurrence of this event. The long term solution of this problem will be resolved with the proposed replacement of the Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant with a new plant, scheduled for completion in 2014.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM

For more information, please contact Kenneth Mason, Deputy Director Utilities – Engineering at (401) 845-5614 or in writing to, Newport Water Division, 70 Halsey Street, Newport, RI 02840.

Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Newport, Newport Water Division PWS#:1592010 December 29, 2010

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.

