

Important Information About Your Drinking Water
Disinfection Byproduct Levels Above Drinking Water Standards
Point Roberts Water District No. 4 Water System (ID95750) – Whatcom County

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you should take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on February 11, 2010 and April 6, 2010 and July 6th 2010 and November 11, 2010 show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethane and for halo acetic acids. The standard for total trihalomethane is 80 ppb (ppb = parts per billion). The average level of total trihalomethane over the last year was 101ppb ppm. The standard for halo acetic acids is 60 ppb. The average level of halo acetic acids over the last year is 65 ppb.

You do not need to use an alternate (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

Total trihalomethanes – Some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Chlorination has been the main means for disinfecting municipal drinking water in several countries for many decades. The added chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter, to form a wide range of unwanted halogenated organic compounds, often referred to as disinfection by-products (DBPs). Amongst the most widely occurring by-products are trihalomethanes (THMs). Besides organic matter and chlorine dose, factors affecting the composition and concentration of DBPs include residence time in the distribution system, temperature, pH, and bromide levels.

The District has installed a diffuser system in the 1 million gallon reservoir to ensure good mixing of the water and avoid in tank dead spots. Additionally: The Seymour – Capilano Water Filtration Plant is completed and in operation. The plant will include the world's largest UV disinfection works. Filtration improves drinking water quality by removing microorganisms, organics, silts and clays caused by heavy rainfall, and reduces the amount of chlorine required to maintain water quality. The water will also be treated to reduce corrosion in pipes and the staining of plumbing fixtures.

We anticipate resolving the problem within the year 2011. The District will continue to monitor the disinfection by-products within the distribution system and at the in coming source. We will continue to work with our engineer and try to bring the drinking water into compliance with the EPA standards.

For more information, please contact the Point Roberts Water District No. 4 office at 945-4696 or 79 Tye Drive, Suite A, Point Roberts, WA, 98281.