

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Lexington PWS Failed to Meet Turbidity Treatment Technique

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Lexington public water system (PWS) reported the failure to meet the treatment technique standard for turbidity during March 2019. The turbidity entering the distribution system must be equal to or less than 0.3 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) in at least 95% of the measurements taken each month. Sudden changes in raw water quality of the Missouri River the week of March 24th caused by the recent flooding event have affected the ability of the treatment process to make very fine particles settle out of the water. As a result, the Lexington PWS reported the failure to meet the 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of monthly measurements met the 0.3 NTU standard for the month.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do unless you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly. These people may be at increased risk and 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Turbidity is a measure of suspended particles in drinking water. While turbidity has no direct health effects, it can interfere with the disinfection process and may provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may also indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

What happened? What is being done? Corrective Action Taken by Lexington

Due to recent flooding of the Missouri River Lexington had a violation at its plant for high turbidity levels. DNR standards require Cities to report any levels that are not within compliance. This is a common issue when river levels are as high as they have recently been. Several communities along the Missouri River experienced the same issues. Kansas City MO struggled to meet the same limits because of the river flooding.

Even though the turbidity levels were slightly increased, our water, after filtration, goes through an ultraviolet disinfection system before being pumped to the City. This process is meant as an added measure to kill anything that is missed by the filtration an treatment process.

The City took extra measures to verify the safety of the water. While not required by DNR, the City of Lexington took water samples from multiple locations around the community, These samples were immediately taken to a lab and tested for bacteria. The results showed no bacteria present, verifying the safety of the water.

The City of Lexington proactively called DNR and requested that a representative come and inspect our situation to provide guidance. DNR stated the City of Lexington was doing everything that was expected to manage the situation and has maintained communication throughout the event.

Further steps were taken by the City to keep the plant operating and enhancing the water quality. Examples include slowing down the pumping system to allow more disinfection and retention time for filtration. These steps provide extra measures to provide quality water.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Joe Clifford at 660-259-4633 or lexingtonwater@gmail.com
(name of contact person at water system) (phone number) (mailing address)

You may also contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Kansas City Regional Office 816-251-0700 or Public Drinking Water Branch at 573-526-6925.