

MARTINDALE WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

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MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION MCL, LRAA/TTHM

THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) HAS NOTIFIED THE MARTINDALE WSC TX0280013 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes to be 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value in quarter one 2019 of 0.086 mg/L for DBP2-02.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water.

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

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

The Martindale WSC received notice March 25, 2019 from the State we had exceeded the upper limit of the running average of a water contaminant total trihalomethanes (THM's). Water samples are collected from our water system quarterly to measure the level of THM's. The upper limit for THM's is 80 parts per billion. The samples taken on October 31, 2018 and February 27, 2019 contained higher levels of THM's. This water was surface water from the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers, delivered to us from the Hays/Caldwell water treatment plant (WTP) located on the San Marcos River close to Hwy. 80 and Three Dudes Winery. Martindale WTP typically uses well water (ground water) as a source; however, our WTP has been off-line since last summer for a major upgrade. The Martindale WSC utilizes surface water from the Hays/Caldwell WTP to supplement our well water during high water demand in summer or when our WTP is off-line for repair or upgrade. Organic material in surface water reacts with chlorine used for disinfecting the water to form THM's over time. Well water low in organics does not tend to form THM's. The Hay/Caldwell WTP staff is currently working diligently to lower the THM level leaving their WTP and to reduce the organics in the water they deliver so THM's do not form in water pipelines used to distribute water to us or in the water mains used to get water to you. They hope to modify their disinfection process in April to solve this problem.

The Martindale WSC anticipates having our local WTP back in operation by early May 2019 using well water. We will blend any water in our pipe system coming from the Hays/Caldwell WTP with well water, which will tend to dilute and lower any THM contamination. By then, improvements made by the Hays/Caldwell WTP should have already alone lowered this contaminant.

Please note that our exceedance was six parts per billion for the average of four samples taken quarterly, or 86 parts per billion. This level though very low is still not acceptable. Staff of the Martindale WSC will conduct water main flushing, water tank draining and cleaning, THM sampling and monitoring, in order to reduce any potential of THM formation to insure the water you receive from us is meets all drinking water requirements set by the EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

For those interested, here is a link for more information regarding THMs (also known as disinfection by-products or DBPs): <https://www.cdc.gov/safewater/chlorination-byproducts.html>

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Steven Fonville at 512-357-6951.

Posted/delivered on: April 2019