IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight routinely monitors base drinking water to ensure it is safe for consumption. As of June 2016, monthly water samples have been maintained below Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contamination level (MCL), and are projected to be below the annual compliance average by January 2017. However, until we record a 12 month average below EPA limits, we are still considered to be in violation. As our customer, we have an obligation to inform you of what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Altus AFB Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Above Drinking Water Standards

Testing results we received for **April 2015 through March 2016, July 2015 through June 2016, and October 2015 through September 2016,** show that our system exceeds the standard, or MCL, for TTHMs. The MCL for TTHMs is 0.080 mg/L. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The levels of total TTHMs averaged at our system's locations over each three month period were **0.122 and 0.140 mg/L, 0.114 and 0.132 mg/L, and 0.083 and 0.100 mg/L.**

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.

Although the health risks associated with our levels of total TTHMs are low, there are steps you can take to further reduce levels in your household or office drinking water. The easiest and most cost-effective way to reduce TTHM levels in the drinking water is to filter it with an activated carbon filter.

What does this mean? This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? Altus AFB began sampling TTHMs the 1st Quarter of 2013 and went into violation for Disinfection Byproduct Rule (DBPR) beginning the 2nd Quarter of 2013. This was partially due to the drought conditions for the past several years which caused an increase of organic material concentrations in the Tom Steed Reservoir. This increase in organic material has had a direct effect in the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) levels. With the high levels of organic material in our source water, the City of Altus had to counteract this by increasing the level of chlorine to ensure our water was potable. Since the levels of chlorine was increased this caused elevated levels of TTHMs in our water system.

What is being done? The City of Altus has taken several steps to enhance the quality of our water. Since May 2016, two well fields in North Texas have been reconditioned and are currently pumping well water. Well water is being blended with water from the Tom Steed reservoir with the goal of reducing TTHMs below the regulatory limit. Well water contains very little organic material and will also reduce the amount of chorine needed for disinfection. In addition, with the extensive upgrades to their reverse osmosis treatment system, Altus Water Treatment Plant is currently producing high quality water. Altus AFB is now receiving water that is below the EPA MCL of 0.080mg/L, and is expected to be in annual average compliance by Jan 2017. Bioenvironmental Engineering will continue monitoring these contaminants and keep you informed of any changes.

For further information, please contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at (580) 481-5494 or 301 N. 1st St Altus AFB, OK 73523.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by **Altus AFB** PWSID#: OK3003303

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Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander