

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER TOC Removal Requirements Not Met

The City of South Haven (City) Water Treatment Plant was recently cited for a treatment technique violation for inadequate removal of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). We routinely monitor our source water from Lake Michigan for TOC, the amount of carbon found in natural organic compounds. TOC removal is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. Our TOC removal ratio during the first quarter of 2018 was 0.584, which is less than the standard Safe Drinking Water Act requirement of 1.00.

The TOC levels in source water and treated water are monitored quarterly to measure TOC levels and the removal efficiency of the treatment process. Historically, TOC levels in the source water have been low enough that the determination of TOC removal efficiency has not been necessary. However, in the past year, TOC levels in Lake Michigan have increased, triggering removal requirements. Normal treatment processes were not able to meet the TOC removal requirements in the first quarter of 2018.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. This notice is required to be distributed to all customers within 30 days of the violation being identified. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be quickly notified within 24 hours.

TOC has no health effects; however, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

All drinking water standards for disinfection byproducts in the water delivered to our customers have been met. The water is safe for drinking and all other uses, and no alternative water sources are needed.

What is being done?

We are investigating the reason for the increased TOC in our source water and are taking steps to improve the removal efficiency of our treatment process. This will include bench tests to determine the effects of any changes we make. We are implementing changes immediately and expect to make necessary improvements to prevent future violations. You will be notified if a future violation occurs.

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 Richie Garcia, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, at rgarcia@south-haven.com or call 269-637-0715.

This notice is being sent to you by City of South Haven.

CERTIFICATION:

WSSN: 06100

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulations in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Signature:  Title: Water Plant Superintendent Date Distributed: 5/3/2018