

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The Everglades City Water Treatment System has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids Which Exceed Standards

### **SITUATION**

The Department of Environmental Protection requires disinfection of drinking water to inactivate possible pathogens, because the health benefits of disinfection far outweigh its risks. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, some disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). A number of DBPs such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) may be a health concern at certain levels of exposure.

The Department has reviewed the laboratory analyses results for the TTHMs and HAA5s collected on March 30, 2010, and May 25, 2010, from the Everglades City public drinking water system. The laboratory analyses results for the samples collected on March 30, 2010, indicated a TTHM concentration of 208.3 ug/L, and a HAA5 concentration of 177.04 ug/L, and the laboratory analyses results for the samples collected on May 25, 2010, indicated a TTHM concentration of 126.4 ug/L, and a HAA5 concentration of 95.74 ug/L. Therefore, the Department has determined that this water system has generated Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for both TTHMs and HAA5s, since the running annual average MCLs for both TTHMs and HAA5s was exceeded after two consecutive quarters of monitoring. Table 3 of Rule 62-550, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), identifies the MCL for TTHMs as 80 ug/L, and the MCL for HAA5s as 60 ug/L.

### **HEALTH EFFECTS**

Some People who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **WHAT SHOULD CUSTOMERS DO?**

Recent research results suggest a possible connection between high levels of disinfection byproducts such as TTHMs and HAA5s and pregnancy problems. Therefore, women of childbearing age may wish to seek alternative water sources. Until the problem is corrected, any customers who are concerned about their exposure to TTHMs and HAA5s may wish to use alternative sources of water for ingestion, such as commercial bottled water, or water treated by an appropriate home water treatment device. Appropriate home water treatment devices are those certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) for reducing TTHMs and HAA5s in drinking water.

### **WHAT IS BEING DONE?**

In order to correct the TTHM and HAA5 violations, the water system obtained a permit from the Department to install chloramines for disinfection at the booster station. While the Department did issue a partial clearance on August 12, 2009, for the chlorine at the booster station, in order to correct the TTHM and the HAA5 violations, the water system still needs to clear the Ammonia system at the booster station as soon as possible.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

For more information please contact Sammy Hamilton, Jr., Mayor or Dottie Joiner at 239-695-3781, or you may contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 239-332-6975 ext. 128. 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.