

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Our water system recently received a violation of the New York State Sanitary Code for not meeting a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency situation, you have a right to know about this violation and what your water district did to correct the situation.

The Plainview Water District (PWD) obtains its source water from 12 wells drilled into Long Island's sole-source aquifer. As with many wells on Long Island, these wells have been impacted with naturally occurring and manmade contamination from past practices that were either once accepted or illegal. Most manmade contaminants are the byproducts of manufacturing and chemical discharge from the past several decades. We routinely monitor for the presence of many of these drinking water contaminants.

On September 13, 2017, we received notice from the Nassau County Department of Health that the routine monthly samples collected on July 3 and August 3, 2017 from our Well No. 1-1 showed that our system exceeded the standards, or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for tetrachloroethylene and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene. The standard for tetrachloroethylene and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene is 5.0 ppb (parts per billion, or micrograms per liter) for each contaminant. The average level of tetrachloroethylene for these two months and subsequent samples collected in September was 9.5 ppb and the average level of cis-1,2-dichloroethylene was 7 ppb. Prior to this period, water sampling indicated compliance with all standards. Immediately upon receiving this notice, Well No. 1-1 was removed from service and will not be put back into operation until treatment is implemented at the well site. During this period, Well No. 1-1, produced only a portion of the Districts demand and was blended with other non-detection well water. Only 1 of 24 samples collected throughout the distribution system between July 3 and September 19 exceeded the MCL for tetrachloroethylene with a detection level of 5.8 ppb.

### **What should residents do as a result of this violation?**

There is no action our residents need to take because of this notification. The PWD has 11 other wells in operation with treatment available to provide water that meets all drinking standards and demand.

### **What does this notification mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified by the District within 24 hours.

### **The New York State MCL of 5.0 ppb was set as a measure to protect against possible effects from continuous and long-term ingestion, and is based on a typical person drinking 2 liters of water per day for 70 years.**

The Nassau County Department of Health has provided the following guidance; noting that problems relating to exposure to these types of chemicals happens over many years of continuous consumption at levels above the established MCL.

- *Some people who drink water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their liver, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*
- *Some people who drink water containing cis-1,2-dichloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver.*

**How much is a part per billion (ppb)?**

The level of detection is measured in units of parts per billion (ppb). Be advised, to put this in perspective, a part per billion is equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

**What is being done to ensure this doesn't happen again?**

Well No. 1-1 is one of 12 wells routinely operated by the District. When informed of this violation on September 13, 2017, this well was immediately removed from service and will not be placed into operation until treatment is implemented at the well site. The remaining 11 wells and treatment facilities are operational and can provide water that meets all drinking water standards and demands.

In addition to removing the well from service, the District performed flushing of the distribution system to remove any remnants of contamination that may remain. We have taken multiple samples throughout the distribution system to ensure no remaining contamination exists. We are pleased to report that as of September 15, 2017, all distribution system sample results are well below the MCL and in complete compliance with all Health Department standards.

To further ensure the safety of our drinking water, additional sampling was conducted throughout the District on September 19, 2017, and all sample result levels were registered as Non-Detect. This includes the 1 distribution sample location that previously exceeded the MCL.

For more information, please contact: Stephen Moriarty, Superintendent at the Plainview Water District at 516-931-6469 or the Nassau County Health Department at 516-227-9692.

*\*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.*

[Download the Water Safety Update Questions and Answers.](#)

This notice is being sent to you by Plainview Water District. NY State Water System  
NY2902845:

Date Distributed: 10/12/2017