

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

Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

### *City of Stillwater Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements.*

We routinely monitor your water for Total Organic Carbon Removal. This tells us whether we are effectively removing Organic Carbon from the water supply. Our latest calculations have shown that we didn't remove the average percentage of organic carbon required by EPA standards during the twelve-month period of January 2021 through December 2021.

### *What should I do?*

You do not need to use an alternate water supply or take other actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

### *What does this mean?*

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total Organic Carbon has no health effects. However, total organic carbon 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 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.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

The reason for the exceedance of total organic carbon was due to equipment malfunction of our lime dosing system. The lime dosing system allows the appropriate pH range to be established in the treatment process. When the lime dosing system was not functioning properly, the pH was too low causing inadequate removal of TOC.

To correct the issues, Stillwater staff rebuilt one of the lime dosing units and partially rebuilt the second unit in 2021. Due to the age of the lime equipment, replacement parts cannot be purchased off-the-shelf and instead must be fabricated. The fabrication process requires more time than purchasing parts. Additionally, due to nationwide staffing and supply issues, materials and specialty items are in short supply.

In January 2022 after rebuilding the lime dosing units, the violations were resolved and Stillwater has been in compliance with total organic carbon removal since then.

Stillwater's drinking water was not found to be in excess of the MCLs for HAAs or THMs.

For further information contact James Driskel, Water Utilities Director, (405) 533-8048.

*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 the City of Stillwater PWSID#: OK1021220.

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