

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Sitka Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation. We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively treating the water supply

Normal turbidity levels at our plant are 1.2 turbidity units. Water samples taken between October 30th and November 11th showed elevated turbidity units with the highest sample being 11.88 turbidity units. This was above the standard of 5 turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

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

**Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. **

These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

Water operators are closely monitoring the situation. The water is being tested daily for coliform in both the treated and untreated water. All results have been below regulatory limits. Chlorine disinfectant levels are continuously monitored and results show we are adequately dosing our water.

For more information, please contact Shilo Williams at 907-747-4071 or shilo.williams@cityofsitka.org

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 [system]. State Water System ID#: AK2130075.
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