



CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – WATER DIVISION

Sept. 2, 2020

Dear Battle Creek Area Water Customer,

RE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Battle Creek water system recently violated a drinking water treatment technique. This event is **not a crisis** and there is nothing you need to do currently. The events that led to this violation have been identified and corrected; the City has been meeting treatment requirements daily since the date we received notice of the violation. Although this situation **does not** require that you take immediate action, as customers of the water systems of the City of Battle Creek, the City of Springfield, Emmett Township and portions of Pennfield Township that are supplied by our water treatment plant, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have done to correct this situation.

We treat our water to control corrosion and reduce lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. To ensure we are optimizing corrosion control, we routinely sample the water at the treatment plant and in the distribution systems for phosphate. The phosphate that we add to the water is a safe chemical that can be found in many of the foods we eat such as dairy products, meats and nuts. We are required to maintain phosphate within state-designated ranges. For the number of days listed in the table below, we did not maintain phosphate within the set ranges.

Monitoring Period	Location	Excursion days
January 1 – June 30, 2020	Point of entry	15 days

What should I do?

You **do not** need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This situation **does not** require that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. This is a treatment violation related to lead and copper regulations.

For the City of Battle Creek (Battle Creek) water system, the most recent monitoring indicates that lead and copper levels were well below the action levels set by the EPA in at least 90 percent of residential drinking water taps sampled.

It is important that we take measures to control lead and copper levels in the water, because ingesting lead or copper can cause serious health consequences.

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient; however, some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s disease should consult their personal doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Battle Creek failed to maintain water quality parameter levels within the state-designated ranges at the treatment plant. During an extensive rehabilitation project at the treatment plant a pipe supplying phosphate in the plant was damaged by construction equipment. This damage led to a lower rate of phosphate being applied to the water. There were also two days during phasing of the rehabilitation project that phosphate was applied to the water at a reduced amount while a portion of the treatment plant was out of service. The rehabilitation project at the treatment plant has been completed and we are working with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to adjust our treatment to maintain the state-designated ranges at the treatment plant.

The events that led to these excursions have been investigated, dosing adjustments have been made, standard operating procedures have been updated and treatment staff have been fully trained on the matter to prevent this from happening again.

Battle Creek routinely samples water for phosphate three times each day from the plant tap and every quarter from 10 locations in Battle Creek, three locations in Emmett Township and three locations in the City of Springfield water distribution systems. Battle Creek will continue to perform the state-designated sampling schedule to ensure it is maintaining the state-designated ranges for water quality parameters such that it will have successfully met the state standards at the end of the December 31, 2020 monitoring period.

For more information, please contact City Utility Administrator Perry Hart at (269) 966-3481.

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 Battle Creek.

Para leer este aviso en español y birmano, visite nuestro sitio web, battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks. Haga clic en Agua y Aguas Residuales en el lado izquierdo de la página.

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