



CITY OF WHITE SALMON

White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-1133
www.white-salmon.net

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Turbidity and Disinfection Treatment Requirements Were Not Met in March 2022 White Salmon, City of Water System; ID#96350 B; Klickitat County

The city water system recently violated several drinking water standards. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what the city is doing to correct the situation.

Disinfection

Contact Time: To ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant, of sufficient concentration, for a minimum amount of time. This may not have occurred on March 4, 2022, for 18 minutes and March 10, 2022, for 5 minutes. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water must mix with chlorine of sufficient concentration for a longer period to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the "contact time", depends on the amount of disinfectant in the water and the temperature of the water.

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.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If immediate action had been required, you would have been notified immediately. Tests taken during the same time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.* The symptoms above 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 happened? What is being done?

A problem occurred with the chlorine analyzer at Buck Creek Monitoring Station. This station monitors the chlorine level from the Buck Creek Slow Sand Filter Plant, which includes the chlorine *Contact Time* from the plant.

On March 4 & 10, 2022, there was a lapse in chlorine residual of 18 minutes and 5 minutes as recorded on the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System, which is a type of computer system that is meant to gather and quickly analyze real-time data. These systems are commonly used within production facilities and industrial plants.

On March 4, 2022, the water treatment plant was off line due to high turbidity in Buck Creek from the previous days. The plant was brought back in-service on March 4th as the turbidity levels were low enough to treat the water. The Public Works crew flushed the water main at the monitoring station before putting it in the water system, and the chlorine analyzer showed good chlorine residual at the time of flushing. The chlorine analyzer had an air bubble and could not read the correct chlorine level. It took 18 minutes for the air bubble to move through the analyzer, which at that time it was able to read the proper chlorine levels.

Public Works has replumbed the water line to the chlorine analyzer and included a Y strainer that should trap and release air away from the analyzer and prevent any more air problems.

On March 10, 2020, there was a reporting communication issue that caused the chlorine analyzer to read 0.00 for five minutes. Before the communication issue, the chlorine residual was operating correctly.

Public Works had Colburn Electric look into the issue and replace some cables to resolve the issue.

For more information, contact Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager, at 509-493-1133 x500 or email pwsoptions@ci.white-salmon.wa.us.

(To be completed by Water System)

This notice was:

- X Mailed to all water users on June 22, 2022 (Date).
Hand delivered to all water users on _____ (Date).
Published in newspaper. (Copy attached).
- X Other: Posted to City's website on June 17, 2022 (Date).

Signature: Russ Avery Date: June 17 2022

SEND A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TO:
EASTERN DRINKING WATER OPERATIONS
16201 E. INDIANA AVENUE, SUITE 1500
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99216

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