

Frequently Asked Questions – TTHM Exceedance for Grandview Plan Area

1. **Why did I receive this notice?** Quarterly sampling results obtained on Friday, December 4, 2020, indicated that the TTHM concentration at the Grandview Tank was over the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) suggested by the USEPA. The Authority is required to direct mail the notice within 30 days of the known exceedance to all customers impacted. The notice is a mandatory template by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.
2. **What areas of the service area are impacted?** The following areas are impacted by this notice: Primrose Drive, Rambler Drive, Long Lane, Scenic View Drive, Cole Road, Portions of Buffalo Plaza (does not include Giant Eagle).
3. **What are TTHMs?** TTHMs are a group of chemicals known as disinfection byproducts that form when chlorine used for disinfection in the water treatment process react with naturally occurring organic material found in the source of supply, the Allegheny River. Several factors accelerate the formation of disinfection byproducts including warm water temperatures, low river levels, lack of precipitation, older water age, stagnant conditions and an increase in chlorine dosages.

The Authority is required to collect TTHMs at two different locations on a quarterly basis. TTHM monitoring and testing is only one of several required water tests that are performed at this location and throughout the distribution system. Other testing that is performed at the Grandview Tank include monthly chlorine residual sampling and bacteria sampling.

4. **Why is chlorine added?** Chlorine is added to the water for disinfection. Disinfection of the water first kills the microorganisms that may be present in the surface water. A detectable chlorine residual is kept in the water as it travels through the pipes in the distribution system to prevent regrowth of microorganisms. Maintaining a chlorine residual throughout the distribution system is mandatory and regulated by the PA DEP. Chlorine residuals leaving the water treatment plant are continuously monitored. Chlorine residual sampling is done frequently throughout the month at various points in the distribution system.
5. **What is an MCL and how is compliance with an MCL determined?** A MCL is a Maximum Contaminant Level that is established by the USEPA. In the case of TTHMs, compliance is determined by calculating a LRAA, or Locational Running Annual Average. The LRAA takes into consideration the four most recent quarters to determine the current MCL for TTHMs at each location. In the past, the LRAA was calculated using all data from every location to determine one TTHM result.
6. **What is being done to ensure compliance with TTHM?** All TTHM results were reviewed to determine if the issue is system-wide or at one location. IF the issue was

system-wide, a change in disinfection practices may have been considered (i.e., switching from chlorine to monochloramines for disinfection). Since the issue is isolated to the Grandview Tank, the focus of remediation will be on the tank itself. When the weather clears and is safe to climb the tank, the mixing system installed in 2018 will be inspected for proper operation. The Authority Engineer is currently reviewing several additional projects that should help fix this issue.

7. **How will I receive further information regarding this situation?** In the event of a capital tank project or if TTHM is still a concern, all impacted customers will receive a notice in the mail. Customers are invited to attend the Authority Board Meetings, which take place every third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Authority's office, 707 South Pike Road, Sarver. All meeting minutes are published to the Authority's website: www.buffaloauthority.org. Customers are also welcome to call or visit the office with any questions.
8. **Who should I contact if I still have questions?** Please contact Kristy Donaldson, Manager, with further questions.

Phone: 724-295-2703

Email: mabt@zoominternet.net