



**DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES
Water Treatment Plant**

Date: September 22, 2006
To: All City of Barberton Departments
From: Terry Palmer, City of Barberton Water Treatment Plant Manager
RE: 2nd & 3rd Quarter Drinking Water HAA test results

I have received the results for the Disinfection-By-Products testing for the third quarter of this year (the third quarter is the time period of July-August-September). The sample(s) collected on August 24, 2006 show HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) at **0.018 mg/l**. The average level of HAA5 over the last year is now at **0.052 mg/l**. The standard for HAA5 is 0.060mg/l

AS OF AUGUST 24, 2006 THE CITY OF BARBERTON'S DRINKING WATER IS BELOW THE MCL (MAXIMUM CONTAMINENT LEVEL) FOR HAA5.

The results for the second quarter of this year (the second quarter is the time period of April-May-June) were still elevated above the MCL for HAA5. The sample(s) collected on May 22, 2006 show HAA5 at 0.061 mg/l. The average level of HAA5 over the last year from this quarter was 0.063 mg/l. The standard for HAA5 is 0.060 mg/l. A notice with this information as to the second quarter HAA5 exceeding the MCL was included in the water bills that are being mailed out on Friday, September 23, 2006.

I have attached to this memo a copy of the notice that is in the water bills along with a fact sheet concerning Disinfection-By-Products.

If anyone has any further questions, have them contact me at the plant at 330-848-6744 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thanks,

Terry Palmer

City of Barberton Water Treatment Plant
3365 Summit Rd.
Norton, Ohio 44203
(330) 848-6744
TPalmer@cityofbarberton.com

cc: file

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Barberton City Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). The sample(s) collected on May 22, 2006 show HAA5 at 0.061 mg/l. The average level of HAA5 over the last year was 0.063 mg/l. The standard for HAA5 is 0.060 mg/l.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What Does This Mean?

The levels detected do not pose an immediate risk to your health. However, some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

We are investigating and taking the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.

The City of Barberton has always strived to provide the best quality and quantity of water to all of our consumers. The City of Barberton Water Treatment Plant is presently under construction of a major remodeling project that is designed to improve water quality, including HAA5 levels and meet or exceed all present and future regulations.

For more information, please contact Terry Palmer at 330-848-6744 Monday through Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm or at City of Barberton Water Treatment Plant 3365 Summit RD. Norton, Ohio 44203.

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.

April 2005

Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) in Public Drinking Water

What are disinfection byproducts?

Most drinking water must be treated with disinfectants in order to kill germs. Disinfection byproducts form when disinfectants such as chlorine, chlorine dioxide or ozone react with organic and inorganic substances present in the raw water. The primary organic DBP precursors are derived from terrestrial and aquatic plants. Bromide ion is the main inorganic precursor for disinfection byproducts.

Which disinfection byproducts are regulated?

There are hundreds of different disinfection byproducts that can be formed in drinking water. The type and quantity depend in part on the source water quality, type of disinfectant and distribution system operation. The following disinfection byproducts are regulated with a monitoring requirement and a maximum contaminant level:

- total trihalomethanes (TTHM);
- five haloacetic acids (HAA5);
- bromate; and
- chlorite.

What levels of disinfection byproducts are allowed in drinking water?

There are four maximum contaminant levels for disinfection byproducts: Total trihalomethanes may be present at 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L), five haloacetic acids at 0.060 mg/L, bromate at 0.010 mg/L and chlorite at 1.0 mg/L.

How often is monitoring required?

The frequency of monitoring varies depending on the public water system size, source type and type of disinfectant used. Past levels of disinfection byproducts may also result in either an increase or decrease in monitoring. Monitoring can be required daily, monthly, quarterly, annually or once every three years.

What happens when the maximum contaminant level is exceeded?

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation is issued to any public water system that exceeds the MCL for one or more disinfection byproducts. Failure to reduce these levels may result in an enforcement action by Ohio EPA. Some public water systems that purchase drinking water from another system, but do not add any additional treatment, are not regulated by current Federal rules for disinfection byproducts. They are likely to be included in the next round of disinfection byproducts rules from U.S. EPA. Ohio EPA has adopted a State rule to address systems that purchase disinfected surface water, but do not add any additional treatment.

What are the health effects of disinfection byproducts?

There have been many studies on the health effects of exposure to disinfection byproducts. Although some studies indicate the potential for both short- and long-term adverse health

effects, others do not. Some potential health effects include cancer, as well as reproductive and developmental disorders. There is still a lot of uncertainty regarding any one individual's risk when exposed to levels of disinfection byproducts above the maximum contaminant level.

Can drinking water be treated to remove disinfection byproducts?

Yes. There are a variety of treatments available to public water systems to reduce the level of disinfection byproducts in drinking water. Treatment is typically one of two types:

- reduction in the levels of compounds that cause disinfection byproducts; or
- the removal of already-formed byproducts;

Home treatment, such as activated carbon, may also be helpful in reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts in your drinking water. Additional information on home treatment units can be obtained through the National Sanitation Foundation's (NSF) web site at www.nsf.org. NSF is an organization that certifies that products have been independently tested for effectiveness according to their manufacturers' claims.

For more information, call Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters at (614) 644-2752.

