



NOTICE OF CHANGE IN DISINFECTION OF DRINKING WATER PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF HANNIBAL

This message is for all those who use City of Hannibal water. That includes medical facilities, stand-alone dialysis centers and aquarium stores.

As you may be aware, the Hannibal Board of Public Works has been in violation of federal drinking water standards since 2012, and has been sending public notices to customers quarterly since the violations began. The violation is related to disinfection byproducts (DBPs).

At the end of September 2015, the Hannibal Board of Public Works will begin using a different type of drinking water disinfectant called chloramines. This will permanently resolve the DBP issue by getting us back into compliance with federal drinking standards. Chloramines are a mixture of chlorine and a small amount of ammonia. Chloramines have been used in the United States for over 60 years.

DBPs are formed when byproducts of chlorine disinfection meet naturally occurring organics in drinking water.

Who Will Be Affected?

The change to chloramine disinfection can cause problems to **persons dependent on dialysis machines**. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, the pretreatment scheme used for dialysis units must include some means, such as a carbon filter, for removing the chloramine. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment.

Chloraminated water may also be toxic to **fish**. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filter that you are using are designed for use in water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you use for the fish tank.

Most customers will not notice a change in the taste or smell of the drinking water, but if you do, please be aware of the cause and allow a little time to get used to the change.