



HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

ELECTRIC, WATER AND WASTEWATER

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CHANGE DISINFECTANT PROCEDURE

August 28, 2015 - Hannibal, MO – On October 1, 2015, the Hannibal Board of Public Works Water Treatment Plant will be changing the disinfectant that we use from chlorine to chloramines. This change is intended to benefit our customers by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease.

Hannibal has had levels of disinfection byproducts above drinking water standards for quite some time. As such, HBPW water customers have received quarterly Notices of Violation for the past several years. It has been a lengthy process, but construction has now begun at the Water Treatment Plant at Riverview Park that will bring us back into compliance with the MoDNR for good. Our goal is to install the new systems by October of 2015.

Please note that the change to chloramines 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 the dialysis units must include some means, such as a charcoal filter, for removing the chloramine prior to this date. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment.

In addition, chloraminated water may be toxic to fish. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters 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.

The majority of residents will not notice a change in the taste or smell of the drinking water when we change over to the new disinfectant, but if you do, please be aware of the cause.

For more information and/or questions regarding this matter, please contact the Hannibal Board of Public Works at (573) 221-8050.

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