

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Turbidity and Disinfection Treatment Requirements Not Met in May 2019**  
**White Salmon, City of Water System; ID#96350 B: Klickitat County**

Our 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 we are doing to correct the situation.

**Disinfection:**

To ensure proper disinfection levels, water coming from the water treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. On May 3, 16, 17, 24 and 25, 2019 the City system failed to maintain an inactivation ratio of at least 1.0 coming from the water treatment. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites without sufficient contact time and an inactivation ratio of at least 1.0. For this reason, the treated water coming from the plant needs to maintain a disinfectant inactivation ratio of 1.0 or greater.

Disinfectant Residual – Through visual inspection and telemetry, we routinely monitor for disinfectant residual in the distribution system. This measurement tells us whether we are effectively disinfecting the water supply. Disinfectant residual is the amount of chlorine or related disinfectant present in the pipes of the distribution system. If the amount of disinfectant is too low, organisms could grow in the pipes. On May 3, 16, 17, 24 and 25, 2019, disinfectant levels were maintained at all times above the minimum required 0.2 milligrams per liter. The standard is that levels may not drop below 0.2 for more than four hours.

**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?**

The Buck Creek Water Treatment Facility has safeguards built into the operating system that will shut down the plant when operating levels are outside of set parameters. On the dates in question, the chlorine monitoring system was periodically failing, and these failures were undetectable based on visual inspections. The failure caused a communication issue between the plant monitoring system and the headworks monitoring system causing the chlorine level to appear degraded.

During this time, water was produced by our wells, disinfected with chlorine and introduced into the distribution system. Meanwhile, the Buck Creek chlorine monitoring station, which is located approximately two miles downstream of the treatment plant, was periodically sampling the chlorine levels in the transmission main that was being delivered from Buck Creek.

The chlorine monitoring system is currently being upgraded. However, at this time steps have been taken to ensure the correct percentage of chlorine is being introduced. The Buck Creek water treatment plant has returned to safe disinfection levels and the treatment plant is in full operation. There were always measurable amounts of chlorine in the distribution system and public health was not in danger.

**What is being done?**

The City is currently in the process of replacing the aging chlorine monitors and telemetry system. The new telemetry system will add redundancy and improved continuous monitoring of the system. This system will ensure these equipment failures are identified as they occur to allow for a quicker response to correct the issues.

The staff of the City of White Salmon work very hard to deliver the purest, most cost-effective water we can provide. We take our obligation seriously and value the trust that the citizens have placed in our operators. Our operators do not take this trust lightly and will do everything in their power to maintain this relationship with the citizens of our community.

For more information, please contact Pat Munyan, City Administrator at 509-493-1133 #202 or City of White Salmon, PO Box 2139, White Salmon WA 98672.

*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 in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*