

Village of South Dayton

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER The Village of South Dayton Has Iron and Manganese Levels Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system is currently in violation of the drinking water standard for iron and manganese. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are planning on doing to correct this situation.

Recent planned maintenance of our water treatment unit for iron and manganese revealed that a large portion of the treatment unit needed to be replaced. The plan was that the treatment unit was only going to be bypassed for approximately one month. However due to unforeseen circumstances, it now appears it will need to be bypassed through the end of September.

What should I do?

You do not need to be alarmed or do anything different with your drinking water. You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns about iron and manganese, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

Recent sampling of the water, without going through the iron and manganese treatment unit, shows elevated levels of iron and manganese (4.40mg/L Iron, 0.538mg/L Manganese). The maximum allowable levels of iron and manganese are put in place to protect the consumers from nuisance aesthetic issues such as stains, odors, and bad taste (0.3mg/L max for iron, 0.3mg/L max for manganese).

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified not to drink the water. Iron is a common metal and a dietary mineral that is essential for maintaining human health. It is used in construction materials, in drinking water pipes, in paint pigments and plastics, and as a treatment for iron deficiency in humans. Iron can be elevated in drinking water in areas where there are high concentrations of iron in soil and rocks, and where iron salts are used in the water treatment process. Iron can also get into drinking water from corrosion of cast iron, steel, and galvanized iron pipes used for water distribution. Elevated levels of iron in water can result in a rusty color and sediment, a metallic taste, and reddish or orange staining.

Although iron is essential for good health, too much iron can cause adverse health effects. For example, oral exposure to very large amounts of iron can cause effects on the stomach and intestines (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and stomach pain). These effects occur at iron exposure levels higher than those typically found in drinking water, and usually diminish once the elevated iron exposure is stopped. A small percentage of people have a condition called hemochromatosis, in which the body absorbs and stores too much iron.

People with hemochromatosis may be at greater risk for health effects resulting from too much iron in the body (sometimes called "iron overload") and should be aware of their overall iron intake. The New York State standard for iron in drinking water is 0.3 milligrams per liter and is based on the effects of iron on the taste, odor and appearance of the water.

Manganese is a common element in rocks, soil, water, plants, and animals. Manganese occurs naturally in water after dissolving from rocks and soil. Contamination of drinking water may occur if manganese gets into surface or groundwater after dissolving from rocks and soil. It may also occur if manganese gets into surface or groundwater after improper waste disposal in landfills or by facilities using manganese in the production of steel or other products.

Manganese is an essential nutrient that is necessary to maintain good health. However, exposure to too much manganese can cause adverse health effects. There is some evidence from human studies that long-term exposure to high concentrations of manganese in drinking water is associated with nervous system effects in adults (e.g., weakness, stiff muscles, and trembling of the hands) and children (learning and behavior). The results of these studies only suggest an effect because the possible influences of other factors were not adequately assessed. There is supporting evidence that manganese may cause nervous system effects in humans from occupation studies of workers exposed to high levels of manganese in air, but the relevance of these studies to long term drinking water exposure is less clear because the exposures were quite elevated and by inhalation, not by ingestion.

What is being done?

We are working with our engineers and the Cattaraugus County Health Department to correct the issue as fast as possible. You will be kept updated every few months regarding the progress of the repairs on the iron and manganese treatment equipment, and once water samples show there is no longer a violation.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Smuda (716-374-0065) or Tim Zerfas at the Cattaraugus County Health Department at (716-701-3388) or by email tdzerfas@cattco.org

Please share this information with people who drink this water.

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