

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bessemer City Water Plant NC 0136025 [System] Did Not Meet Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) Treatment Technique Requirements for Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Our system did not meet the treatment technique requirement at our water treatment plant for the reduction of DBP precursors (Total Organic Carbon (TOC)) to appropriate levels for our particular system. Although this situation was not an emergency and does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

North Carolina's *Rules Governing Public Water Systems* requires that we comply with DBP precursor removal requirements. We routinely monitor for the presence of precursors within the water treatment plant(s). Test results for the time period of October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 showed that treatment techniques being used have been ineffective in adequately reducing the TOC levels.

What should I do?

No immediate action is required on your part at this time. 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?

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

The Removal ratio for this monitoring period was 0.98 when the express Running Annual Average (RAA), which does not meet the required removal ratio of 1.00. What this means is that the State takes the last 4 quarters and averages them together to meet this rule. Our removal ratio for the 3rd quarter 2023 was 1.03. We had an issue meeting the removal ratio in 1st quarter of 2023 and the 4th quarter of 2023. During the 2nd quarter of 2023 we were going through a major renovation at the water plant. With the RAA I expect another NOV for the next quarter for this same violation. We continue to test our water on a daily basis and the water that is treated and produced by the Water Plant is completely safe to drink, use in cooking and any personal use.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person Dennis Wells	System Name Bessemer City Water Plant	System Address (Street) 298 Logan St
Phone Number 704-629-5684	System PWSID # NC 0136025	System Address (City, State, Zip) Bessemer City, NC 28016

Violation Awareness Date: February 2, 2024

Date Notice Distributed: February 9, 2024 Method of Distribution: Direct Customer Mailing

Public Notification Certification:

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumer in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

Instructions for DBP TT for Precursor (TOC) Reduction Failure Notice

(Template on Reverse)

Since failing to meet the treatment technique requirements for DBP precursors (Total Organic Carbon (TOC)) is a **Tier 2** violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within **30 days** after you learn of the violation (C.F.R. 141.203(b)). You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

Community systems **must** use one of the following methods (C.F.R. 141.203(c)):

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems **must** use one of the following methods (C.F.R. 141.203(c)):

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others **IF** they would not be reached by the first method (C.F.R. 141.203(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations.

You must also perform the following:

- If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.
- Notify new billing customers or units prior to or at the time their service begins.
- Provide multi-lingual notifications if 30% of the residents served are non-English speaking.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. If you modify the notice, you must still include the 10 required elements listed in C.F.R.141.205(a), and the standard language (including the health effects language) in ***bold italics*** must not be changed. This language is mandatory (C.F.R. 141.205(d)).

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with treatment technique violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are working with [state agency] to evaluate the water supply and treatment practices. We are also researching options to correct the problem. These options may include using other water sources, implementing modifications to the treatment process or adding treatment processes.
- We will increase the frequency at which we test the water for total organic carbon and other indicators.
- We have since taken samples and had them tested. The results show that we are currently meeting the removal requirements of the treatment technique.

Repeat Notices

If this is an ongoing violation and/or you fluctuate with compliance with the treatment technique, you should give the history behind the violation, including the cause of the failure, if known. List the dates for the initial time period that the treatment technique was not met, as well as how levels have changed over time. If levels are changing as a result of treatment modifications, you can indicate this.

After Issuing the Notice (C.F.R. 141.31(d))

Within **10 days** after completing the initial public notification, the Public Water Supply Section **MUST** receive a copy of the notice you distributed to your customers with your signature and date on the Public Notification Certification (located at the bottom of the notice) indicating that you have fully complied with all the public notice requirements. **Mail your notice/certification to the Public Water Supply Section, Compliance Services Branch, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634.** Retain a copy of these documents for your files.

It is a good idea to inform your consumers when the violation is resolved.