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Dear Residents and Water Customers,

Providing safe, reliable drinking water is a top priority for Plumstead Township. We would like to share information about Pennsylvania's requirements for testing and reporting arsenic in public drinking water systems so that residents understand how water quality is monitored and protected.

What Is Arsenic?

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that can be found in soil, rock, groundwater, and some industrial processes. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of arsenic in drinking water may increase the risk of certain health effects. For this reason, drinking water supplies are regularly tested and regulated.

Pennsylvania's Drinking Water Standard

Under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) regulations, the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic in public drinking water is **10 parts per billion (ppb)**. This standard applies to public water systems that serve at least 25 people or 15 service connections.

How Public Water Systems Are Monitored

Plumstead Township is required to conduct regular arsenic testing as part of our routine monitoring program. We only use accredited laboratories to analyze water samples. We are required to report test results to PADEP through the state's Drinking Water Reporting System and must comply with all applicable drinking water regulations.

designed to protect public health. These monitoring requirements help ensure that drinking water continues to meet state and federal safety standards.

What Happened?

The required test sample date and time was missed by our third party, licensed operator. Missing the test placed the township in violation of the PADEP standards and requirements. The filters used to remove arsenic required replacement, but the replacement was delayed due to a missed testing requirement.

If Arsenic Levels Exceed the Standard?

If testing shows arsenic levels above the 10-ppb standard we must notify customers in writing within 30 days. We also were required to, and we did notify the PADEP according to requirements. We are then required to take corrective actions to address the issue and return the water supply to compliance.

At this time, we have taken the well completely out of service. The well will remain out of service until further corrective action can be taken.

If you have further questions about your drinking water quality, please contact us or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

Plumstead Township

215-766-0189



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

CHEMICAL OR RADIOLOGICAL MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Plumstead Durham Ridge Entry Point 101 Has Levels of Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on 7-15-26 & 7/31/2026 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for arsenic. The standard for arsenic is 0.01 mg/L. Arsenic was found at a level of 0.019 mg/L on 7-14-26 & 0.021 mg/L on 7-24-26 in your drinking water.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

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?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

What happened? What was done? Sample results for annual arsenic monitoring at Plumstead Durham Ridge Entry Point 101 on 7-14-26 exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for drinking water. The required confirmation sampling was conducted on 7-23-26 and resampled on 7-24-26. The sample results received on 7-31-26 confirmed the MCL exceedance. The arsenic filtration system filters were replaced immediately following receipt of the latest laboratory results, which served as the required secondary confirmation testing. The well associated with the arsenic exceedance was subsequently taken offline until a replacement filtration system is installed.

We anticipate resolving the problem within The exceedance was initially addressed by replacing the filters. Engineering is currently underway to design and develop an new filtration system for installation budgeted for 2027.

For more information, please contact Plumstead Township at 215.766.0189 or www.plumstead.org.

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 this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Plumstead Township.

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