IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

**OSU Institute of Technology Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Above Drinking Water Standards**

Testing results we received for the third quarter 2016 through the second quarter 2017, the fourth quarter 2016 through the third quarter 2017, the first quarter 2017 through the fourth quarter 2017, the second quarter 2017 through the first quarter 2018, and the third quarter 2017 through the second quarter 2017 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes. The standard or MCL of total trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/L. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of total trihalomethanes averaged at our system’s locations was 0.081 mg/L, 0.082 mg/L, 0.084 mg/L, 0.093 mg/L, 0.095 mg/L, 0.100 mg/L, 0.118 mg/L, and 0.124 mg/L.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do unless you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant or are elderly. These people may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

**What does this mean?** This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**What happened? What is being done?**

OSU Institute of Technology purchases its water from the City of Okmulgee. The ground water source is Okmulgee Lake. Water is treated and delivered by the City of Okmulgee over the same system used by the rest of the city. The disinfectant used in our water provider’s system will break down over time. One family of resulting byproducts is Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), for which we are in exceedance with health effects described above. The health effects are described above.

In 2011, OSU Institute of Technology applied for a construction permit through ODEQ to replace water main lines throughout the campus that were a part of the original Glennan General Hospital (US Army) from WWII. In 2013, nearly 2,500 feet of water main was replaced. In the summer of 2014, OSU Institute of Technology started the rest of the main replacement, a $2 million water and sewer line replacement project, which was completed in February 2015.

The City of Okmulgee received a CDBG grant to allow them to continue replacing main lines throughout the city. Part of the work included the replacement of a water main along 4th Street from Wood Drive east to Mission Lane where it enters our campus pipes. This was good news as it improved water reliability and pressure in the neighborhood where OSU Institute of Technology lies.

The other benefit to all the water main replacement was that it removed old, deteriorated pipes that maintained residual sludge in them, which was a good medium to hold TTHMs.

Whereas this was a much needed improvement to the city’s systems and our pipes, after further testing results, it was determined a more aggressive action was required to bring our levels back into compliance. In turn, this goes back to whom we purchase our water.

In June 2016, the City of Okmulgee was placed under a Consent Order by ODEQ. Because of this additional work is needed to meet the required drinking water standards. The City is working with an engineering firm to make changes to the treatment process that will bring their facility into compliance. In January 2017, ODEQ asked that OSUIT and several other agencies in the area also be placed under a Consent Order as our water comes from the City of Okmulgee.
It has been determined by the engineers working for the city that conversion of the disinfectant system to one using chloramines as the agent versus chlorine is the solution to the issue. Currently the City of Okmulgee is working on obtaining grants and other funding mechanisms to securing the financing of the system conversion. They are also exploring intermediate options that may help reduce the number of TTHMs in the system.

For further information contact: Mark Pitcher, Director, Physical Plant Services, 918.293.5412

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 OSU Institute of Technology

PWSID#: OK3005625  Consent Order, Case No. 17-008

Date distributed: July, 9, 2018  Signed: Mark Pitcher, Director, Physical Plant