

Water Treatment Change Coming Soon

West Feliciana Water Works Dist. #13 is held to Federal and State drinking water standards when it comes to treating the water we drink. To meet these standards, West Feliciana Water Works Dist. #13 has disinfected water with chlorine and the naturally occurring ammonia for many years. The combination of chlorine and ammonia creates chloramines which is a disinfectant that is used to kill potentially harmful bacteria in the water. EPA recommends chloramines as one of the processes available for treating our water. If we did not disinfect our water at all, disease-causing organisms could be carried in our water system.

Due to recent regulations, the water system was required to switch from chloramines to free chlorine. This involved feeding more chlorine at the wells. You may have noticed an increase in the smell of chlorine in your water. To change back to the previous chloramine system, West Feliciana must notify the public of the change. The process is not expected to adversely affect the taste or clarity of the water. It will also help with the chlorine smell. A chloramine system is also less reactive than free chlorine and creates fewer disinfectant by-products.

West Feliciana Water Works Dist. #13 has engaged an engineering firm, Owen and White, Inc, with the required studies and drawings of the proposed change to our process. The change is expected to go online January 30, 2020. This process change is not expected to adversely affect the taste or clarity of our water.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CHLORAMINES

AS OF **JANUARY 30, 2020** WEST FELICIANA WATER WORKS DIST. #13 IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS WATER QUALITY WILL BE USING CHLORAMINES IN ITS DISINFECTION PROCESS FOR ALL WATER PRODUCED.

IT IS **ESSENTIAL** THAT CUSTOMERS WHO ARE ON A **DIALYSIS MACHINE** OR WHO RAISE **AQUATIC LIFE** SUCH AS **AQUARIUM FISH** SHOULD TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO **REMOVE THE CHLORAMINES** THAT ARE PRESENT IN THE WATER SUPPLY.

Precautions:

1. Persons who use tap water containing chloramines for hemodialysis (artificial kidney machines) must ensure that the water is properly treated to avoid a serious health problem (methemoglobinemia). The types of controls available to users include carbon filtration and reverse osmosis or chemical reduction. Operators of licensed dialysis centers know that water must be treated before use in dialysis. Dialysis operators must be prepared for an anticipated chloramine concentration of 2 to 4 milligrams per liter. The maximum concentration by law is 4 milligrams per liter. In addition, users of home dialysis

systems, which utilize tap water for dialysis purposes, must ensure that the tap water is properly treated to remove chloramines prior to the use of such water for dialysis.

2. Chloramines can be deadly to fish. Since chloramine is more persistent than free chlorine (which is also toxic to fish), treatment and aging of water to be used in aquaria is more critical when chloramine is present. Suggested action for fish fanciers, breeders, or pet shop owners includes the use of activated carbon filters. Care needs to be taken to replace filter cartridges regularly.

Is chloraminated water safe to drink?

Yes, (even though chloraminated water is deadly to fish and may cause problems with persons on hemodialysis if the water is not properly treated), chloraminated water is safe to drink and is safe for bathing, cooking and other uses we have for water every day. West Feliciana Water Works # 13 has been using chloraminated water for years.

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.

If you need additional information, contact West Feliciana Water Works Dist. #13 at 225-635-3864. You may ask to speak with Julius Metz, Utility Superintendent at extension 3660.

