

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER



## CUSTOMER UPDATE

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Dear Water Consumer,

In the **First Quarter** of 2021 (January – March), Mount Werner Water District (District) exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), a group of compounds that can form when chlorine, a common drinking water treatment disinfectant used to control pathogenic organisms, reacts with naturally occurring organic matter. Haloacetic acids are considered to be a chronic health risk, meaning prolonged exposure can have implications. Routine monitoring and lab analysis has shown that the first quarter is the only instance of these levels being above the MCL, therefore it does not necessitate an alternative water source for District customers. The District took immediate corrective measures to flush the distribution system mains in the affected areas and an improved routine flushing program has been implemented in order to reduce the water residence time in sections of our water mains that may be vulnerable to HAA5 formation.

**When the District performed Third Quarter sampling for 2021, lab results were received on August 19, 2021, indicating that all individual sample site results tested below the HAA5 MCL of 60 ug/L.**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) calculates a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) of the last four quarters at four designated sites within the District's distribution system. Since the results at 2 of our 4 testing sites were above the MCL in the First Quarter (January – March), a bubble effect was created making it difficult to quickly lower the LRAA below the MCL level of 60 ug/L.

Due to this, the Locational Running Annual Average for the Third Quarter of 2021 is higher than the MCL of 60 ug/L at 2 of these sites even though the individual sample results did not test higher than the MCL. This LRAA MCL exceedance necessitates Tier II public notice to be distributed to our customers as directed by the CDPHE on **September 2, 2021**. The District anticipates it taking several quarters for the LRAA calculation to be below the MCL.

CDPHE and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have identified the following potential adverse health effects:

- Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic Acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- If you have an infant, severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your doctor about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

You may choose to use an alternative drinking water supply, such as bottled water if you are concerned. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

For more information, please contact **Frank Alfone** at [falfone@mwwater.com](mailto:falfone@mwwater.com) or **(970) 879-2424**, or **PO Box 880339, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488**.

*\* Please share this information with all 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. \**

**Mount Werner Water District - PWSID: CO0154524**