

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

THE VIRGIN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (VVWD) SYSTEM HAS LEVELS OF ARSENIC ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

VVWD has been diligently working to complete five (5) new arsenic treatment plants, but did not meet the January 23, 2009 deadline set by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for completion of the treatment plants. Construction of the arsenic treatment plants started in November 2007; due to today's economy some vendors were not able to supply the necessary equipment for VVWD to meet the January 23, 2009 deadline. Currently VVWD has completed four (4) of the five (5) arsenic treatment plants, with the fifth plant on schedule to be completed by the end of September 2009. Permitting issues slowed the progress of the completion of the fifth and final plant.

VVWD is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. The current standard for arsenic is 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L) (Per Appendix A to Subpart Q of Part 141). During the fourth quarter of 2008 (10-01-08 to 12-31-08), VVWD did not monitor arsenic and therefore cannot be sure of the arsenic levels of your drinking water during that time. Since that time VVWD has performed monitoring of all required contaminants including arsenic. Testing results for arsenic samples collected during the first two (2) quarters of 2009 compliance periods (1-01-09 to 3-31-09 and 4-01-09 to 6-30-09), show that our system exceeded the MCL for arsenic as the arsenic treatment plants were not fully operational. The average level of arsenic for this time period was 0.032 mg/L.

As result of the failure to complete the treatment plants before the deadline, VVWD is out of compliance. To return to compliance, VVWD is required to complete the treatment plants and not exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of arsenic for a year. VVWD is required for a year to notice the public on its progress every three months (every quarter), even if they are meeting the MCL for arsenic. The quarterly public notice will be similar to this document. Currently the four (4) operating treatment plants are producing water at an average of 0.003 mg/L for arsenic, well below the new MCL of 0.010 mg/L. VVWD will be posting this type of notice quarterly until the end of December 2010.

What should I do?

The levels of arsenic present are not an immediate health risk and do not require using an alternate source of drinking water. In order to reduce exposure to arsenic in water, you may wish to consider the use of alternative sources such as bottled water for drinking and cooking. If purchasing bottled water, please verify with the bottler that the arsenic level is less than 0.010 mg/L. Bottled water is not regulated by the same governing agency as municipal water systems, and may not meet the same drinking standards. VVWD does not promote or endorse bottled water or a particular brand name of bottled water.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate health 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 getting cancer (Per Appendix B to Subpart Q of Part 141). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done? When will the problem be corrected?

VVWD has completed four (4) of the five (5) arsenic treatment plants, with the fifth plant on schedule to be completed by the end of September 2009. Permitting issues slowed the progress of the completion of the fifth and final plant. The four (4) operating treatment plants are producing water well below the new MCL at an average of 0.003 mg/L.

For more information, please contact:

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Violation Awareness Date: January 24, 2009

Date Notice Distributed: September 1, 2009 Method of Distribution: Newspaper, VVWD website: vvh2o.com