

September 26, 2023

RE: Temporary Water Quality Changes

Dear City of Jackson Water Customer:

In May 2023, the City Council awarded construction of the Water Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation and Tank Modifications project. This project will make improvements to the existing gravity filter to improve the performance and efficiency of the filter, and improve water quality. The filter removes two contaminants from the water: iron and manganese. Both elements are common in groundwater in this area.

In the next month, construction on the project will start. During construction you may see a temporary change in water quality because to complete the work, the gravity filter will need to be temporarily removed from service. The anticipated overall duration of construction is approximately six months, but the filter is expected to be offline for only approximately 35-45 days.

Health Effects

Iron does not have adverse health effects at the concentrations present in the City's well water. Elevated levels of manganese can have health effects to infants, children, and adults who drink water with high levels of manganese for a long time. MDH has posted a guidance you can find here:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/contaminants/mangnefctshst.pdf>

In summary from the MDH website:

1. If you have an infant who drinks tap water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 micrograms of manganese per liter of water ($\mu\text{g/L}$)* or less.
2. If you have an infant who never drinks tap water or formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less.
3. If everyone in your household is more than one year old, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less.

The City's water without treatment is on average 254 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Aesthetic Changes

You may notice aesthetic changes related to your water. Due to high iron, you may notice a metallic taste, yellow, red, or brown staining, or a rainbow sheen on tea and coffee. Due to high manganese, you may notice scaling, a change in taste and odor, or black staining on your toilet, shower, bathtub, or sinks. The City has taken steps to minimize these issues during the shutdown of the filter, but cannot eliminate them.

If you currently have in home water treatment, it may already remove some of the iron and manganese. You can review the following link for common home treatment option and the contaminants they treat.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/factsheet/hometreatment.pdf>

Outside of the health concerns listed above, your water is safe to drink. If you have any questions or concerns please contact City Hall at 507-847-4410.

Sincerely,

The City of Jackson