



November 13, 2023

RE: Water Treatment Plant Project Update

Dear Jackson Water Customers:

As you are aware the water treatment plant (WTP) gravity filter is offline to recoat the interior and replace the media. The expected duration of the filter being offline is now longer than originally anticipated due to the original coatings subcontractor no longer being able to complete the work. A new coatings subcontractor has been mobilized and is working diligently to complete the work. With the delay we now anticipate the Filter will be back online by December 4th. Our understanding based on discussions with the Contractor is that the original coatings subcontractor has faced financial challenges and is potentially going out of business.

As a reminder, information on the health effects and aesthetic effects due to having the filters offline are listed below.

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/mangnsefectsht.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

Beside health affects, water users may notice aesthetic changes related to the 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.

If residents 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>

Sincerely,

The City of Jackson