

What you need to know about your water supply

• **Is the water safe to drink now?**

Absolutely. First, we sample for over 150 contaminants and we meet all state and federal standards. The TTHM violation is a short-term issue that we hope to resolve within the next few months. Second, the attached required Notice notes that customers do NOT need to use bottled water to be safe.

• **How long has the China Grove water system been in violation?**

The China Grove water system has had periodic problems with levels of TTHM over the past year. We have a plan of action to reduce these levels over the next quarterly reporting period. Some of these strategies are the following:

- SRU has increased the flushing rate at an existing flushing tap and has installed another flushing tap at E. Centerview Street.
- SRU has also added floating shade covers to our raw water reservoirs. These “covers” reduce algae growth which allows for a reduction in the chemicals required to produce clean drinking water, ultimately reducing TTHM production at our water treatment facility and distribution systems.
- SRU is currently evaluating our water tank management practices.
- SRU will re-evaluate our water system model, taking into account the increased amount of system flushing and improved water tank management, to determine our anticipated reduction in water age.

• **What is TTHM and why is it in our water supply?**

TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) is found at some level in all public water supplies and is a natural byproduct of organic matter in the water, such as decaying soil and mulch. The water main serving the China Grove system suffered the loss of 375,000 gallons per day of water usage, resulting in an increase in water age and TTHMs.

- **How does flushing the lines help?**

Flushing of waterlines also helps keep the levels of TTHM down so that we can meet water quality standards. Based on our testing, we know that the higher levels of TTHM originated at the water treatment plant and not in the water supply lines. Flushing on a regular basis is an important preventive step, even if it is sometimes inconvenient for customers. SRU now has two (2) flushing taps with each running at approximately 250 gallons per minute (700,000 gallons per day total).

- **What is the federal limit for TTHM?**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has strict limits for TTHM in the water—no more than .080 milligrams per liter is acceptable (on a running annual average basis). A liter is slightly larger than a quart. To put this in perspective, one milligram in a liter is the same as one inch in 16 miles or one minute of time in two years.

Over the past year, the China Grove water system has periodically exceeded the federal limit by an average of .005 to .030 mg/L (milligrams per Liter), but we are making consistent progress and plan to be under the EPA limit by December 2017.

- **What are potential health effects of TTHM?**

It is important to note that a person would have to drink *many* gallons of the water per day over *many years* to consume enough TTHM for any of the serious health problems mentioned in the attached notice to develop. And, the water would have to consistently be high in TTHM during this entire time.

- **What is Salisbury-Rowan Utilities doing to prevent this problem from happening again?**

First, SRU has installed an additional flushing tap near E. Centerview Street and has increased the flushing rate to nearly 700,000 gallons per day. Second, we completed the project of adding floating shade covers to our reservoirs resulting in a reduction in algae growth. In addition, we will re-evaluate our water system model, taking into account the increased amount of system flushing and improved water tank management, to determine our anticipated reduction in water age in the China Grove water distribution system.

QUESTIONS: Please call 704-638-5202 if you have further questions or want more information.