

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

CITY OF BIG TIMBER

Did not meet treatment requirements

TIER 2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION-FAILURE TO FILTER

Our water system has violated a drinking water standard. The City of Big Timber owns the water system. Although this situation does not require you to take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On April 17, 2013 the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ordered us to filter the water in accordance with ARM 17.38.208 in addition to disinfecting by our existing chlorination of the water. We have not yet installed filtration to meet this treatment technique requirement.

What should I do?

X You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

X People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. We do not know of any cases of contamination. However, until improvements are made, there is an increased chance that disease-causing organisms could contaminate the water supply. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.* These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? The City of Big Timber was advised by DEQ that our water treatment system requires upgrades to meet the requirements. Until filtration is installed, you will receive a notice similar to this every three months.

What is being done? The City's water treatment system has served the City for decades. The City has submitted a plan to DEQ to repair the water system. The City is sampling the water from the system as per DEQ requests. The City also is in active discussions with DEQ regarding additional treatment/filtration of our water. The City expects the situation to be resolved by an agreed upon time after discussions with DEQ have concluded.

For more information please contact City of Big Timber Public Works at 932-5646.

Please share this information with all the other people that 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.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Big Timber, City Hall, 103 E. 3rd Ave., Big Timber, MT 59011.

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