

TO: ALL LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

SUBJECT: **LMWD TTHMs/HAA5 3rd Quarter Results and Recommendations**



Dear Customer:

The 3rd quarter water quality sampling results for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and total haloacetic acids (HAA5) have exceeded the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for these compounds. The District is aware of the issue and is providing this notification so that customers are also aware and can make informed decisions. The 3rd quarter results were significantly lower than the 2nd quarter results, and the District anticipates that they will continue to trend downward and be below the MCLs in the 4th quarter. The chemical reaction that causes TTHMs and HAA5s is slowed and lessened at lower water temperatures typical in the fall/winter. It is important to note that the water quality standard is based on a rolling average of the past four quarters, so it may take a few more quarters before the rolling average drops down below the MCLs. A formal notification letter will follow in time to be included with this month's billing, as it is required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

As stated in the previous notification, this is not considered an emergency, but we know some customers may choose to use filtering or an alternative drinking water supply. The District suggests filtering tap water used for drinking and cooking through an activated carbon filter that is certified by the National Science Foundation for TTHMs/HAA5 removal. Using bottled water is also an option. The District is currently investigating ways of obtaining certified filters and providing to all customers at a reduced cost. **Please note that these suggestions are being made out of an abundance of caution, as the MCLs are based on a lifetime of exposure. Acute health issues are highly unlikely.**

The District has taken many steps to prevent and reduce the formation of TTHMs/HAA5; however, there still appear to be enough contributing factors in the distribution system to result in values above the MCLs. The Lower Beaver Brook Dam project is now complete and the raw water quality in the reservoir has seen a dramatic improvement upon refilling. Finished water leaving the treatment plant meets all state and federal drinking water requirements and has very low TTHMs/HAA5. After additional testing and replacing a section of the main line, we now know there are other problems with the District's main. Water flowing through the main is not the same quality that we see at the treatment plant. This is due to the long time it takes for water to travel from Beaver Brook down to the Lookout Mountain area (over 30 days on average) and the lining used on much of the pipe. The fix involves reducing the volume of water in the distribution system and eliminating the lining by replacing 8.2 miles of the District's main along with other improvements that have been identified in the master plan. The District is trying to accelerate plans for that 8.2 miles and actively looking for potential funding to help get that work done.

The District will continue to provide quarterly updates as additional water quality samples are collected and corrective measures are selected and implemented.

Sincerely,

Lookout Mountain Water District