

Notice about Your Drinking Water for Sewerage and Water Board Customers in Algiers

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the New Orleans West Bank water supply did not achieve the minimum percentage reduction of total organic carbon (TOC) required by the Louisiana State Sanitary Code. This treatment technique violation is not an emergency. **Your water remains safe to use.** If this had been an emergency, you would have been notified immediately.

TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form DBPs. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the maximum contaminant level standard may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

The levels of THMs and HAAs in the Algiers water supply are well below the maximum contaminant level standards. Surface water utilities are required to lower TOC amounts in drinking water supplies by a percentage based on source water parameters, but there is no maximum contaminant level for TOC. Removal of TOC is a performance indicator for the control of such disinfection byproducts.

Compliance with the TOC standard is determined by calculating a running annual average (RAA) of TOC levels, determined quarterly, using the previous 12 monthly TOC sample result removal ratios. Water systems are required to achieve a RAA removal ratio of 1.00 or greater. The Algiers RAA removal ratio at the end of the fourth quarter of 2018 was 0.89. The SWBNO is making planned improvements to the Algiers water treatment plant that are expected to improve TOC removal and help ensure compliance with the Louisiana Sanitary Code's TOC removal requirements.



Please share this information with all the other people who 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.

For additional information, contact the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Water Purification Department, 8800 S. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 865-0405.

