

March 28, 2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER



Why Are You Receiving This Notification?

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) provides treated water to the city of Grosse Pointe Park from its Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant.

In its regular, required Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) monitoring, GLWA found that the level of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in its treated water is well below the required target levels, however because of previous higher quarterly results, the annual average continues to be slightly above the standards required. You will continue to receive these notices until the annual average is again fully in line with these standards.

Total Organic Carbon itself in drinking water does not have health effects. It is tracked carefully by water system operators and regulators to ensure that appropriate source water treatment techniques are used at all times.

While this violation **does not** represent a treated drinking water quality issue, we are required to continue to make this notification to those who receive water from Water Works Park, including Grosse Pointe Park.

Is My Water Safe to Drink?

YES! The water delivered by GLWA remains safe for drinking and all other uses. TOC does not have health effects. It is monitored to ensure that appropriate source water treatment techniques are used at all times.

What Is GLWA Doing to Keep My Water Safe?

To ensure that we continue to provide water of the highest quality, GLWA increased its monitoring for TOC to monthly (from every three months) and has been conducting a more specialized series of tests which confirm there is no drinking water quality concern.

GLWA has taken all available steps to improve TOC removal and is working with research experts to better understand the nature of the change we are seeing in our source water that is leading to this circumstance. These steps have addressed the current situation; however, we are continuing to monitor closely and will send these notices until we are satisfied that our changes and efforts have created a long-term solution to the source-water change.

What Is The Treatment Process Related to Organic Carbon?

Included in the normal treatment processes at Water Works Park is the removal of TOC from its source water in the Detroit River. All organic molecules have carbon in them: TOC is the measure of the concentration of organic carbon in a substance. For water, TOCs are used as one measure of source water quality.

Excessive TOC can lead to the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include compounds that could have health concerns after long exposure and are, therefore, routinely tested. They must not exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) outlined in state and federal regulations. There was no MCL violation in this instance, and again this does not represent a concern for the drinking water

How Can You Reach GLWA Water Quality Experts to Ask Any Questions?

If you have questions about the information in this public notice, please contact Patrick Williford, GLWA Water Quality Manager, at (313) 926-8127, or email waterquality@glwater.org. This notice is specific to the water treatment process, and not the local distribution systems operated by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the other communities listed.

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TOC Removal Requirements Not Met

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Water Works Park Treatment Plant was recently cited for a treatment technique violation for inadequate removal of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). GLWA routinely monitors our source water from the Detroit River for TOC, the amount of carbon found in natural organic compounds. TOC removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. Our running annual average TOC removal ratio during the fourth quarter of 2023 was 0.865, less than the standard Safe Drinking Water Act requirement of 1.00.

The TOC levels in source water and treated water are monitored monthly at Water Works Park to measure TOC levels and the removal efficiency of the treatment process. Historically, TOC levels in the source water have been low enough that the determination of TOC removal efficiency has not been necessary. However, in the past year, source water TOC levels have increased, triggering removal requirements. The calculated removal ratio average in the fourth quarter of 2023 remains below the requirement.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. This notice is required to be distributed to all customers within 30 days of the violation being identified. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be quickly notified within 24 hours.

The requirement to remove TOC is intended to reduce potential disinfection byproduct formation. TOC has no health effects; however, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Drinking water containing these byproducts more than the Maximum Contaminant Level may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

All drinking water standards for disinfection byproducts in the water delivered to our customers have been met. The water may be consumed and used for other uses, and no alternative water sources are needed.

What is being done?

We are expanding our monitoring to improve compliance. This will include increased monitoring at our compliance points. The expanded monitoring also includes specific ultraviolet adsorption (SUVA). Although there are several factors that cause the formation of disinfection byproducts, the SUVA analysis results so far indicate that the source water has a low potential for disinfection byproduct formation and will provide additional compliance options with this requirement. Because TOC removal compliance is based on a running annual average, we anticipate returning to compliance by the second quarter of 2024. You will be notified if a future violation occurs.

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.

If more information is required from a community representative please contact:

Patrick Williford, Water Quality Manager, 313.926.8127, waterquality@glwater.org

This notice is being sent to you by Great Lakes Water Authority

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulations in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Patrick Williford

Digitally signed by Patrick
Williford
Date: 2024.04.03 14:45:41 -04'00'

Signature: _____

Water Quality Manager, Date Distributed: 04/03/2024