



Public Notice: Taste and Odor of Drinking Water

Date: 9-8-16

Many Bardstown water customers are experiencing a taste and odor in their drinking water. The issue is a result of green algae in the source water and has been resolved. Please see below for answers to questions you may have. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we continually strive to reduce the frequency and duration of these natural upsets in our drinking water.

Is it safe to drink the water?

Yes. The water is completely safe to drink and boiling your water is not necessary. We understand that customers may choose not to drink the water while the unpleasant taste exists.

What caused the earthy taste and odor in the drinking water?

This taste and odor issue is caused by rapid algae growth in Sympson Lake. Green algae, though a nuisance, is not harmful and its growth is a natural occurrence that often happens in the late summer months as a result of abundant sunlight and high temperatures. It can occur in a matter of days.

What is being done to eliminate the problem?

The City of Bardstown has already treated the lake with a drinking water safe algaecide in order to eliminate it from the water source. Visual inspections and water samples at various depths are done weekly at Sympson Lake to assess the quality of the lake water at various depths. The intake elevation is then adjusted so that water withdrawn for treatment is taken from the lake at the elevation the water quality is best. In addition, the Bardstown Water Treatment Plant made changes to its treatment process in order to eliminate the taste and odor.

How long will my water taste like this?

The duration of an upset caused by algae can vary depending on the severity of the bloom. Since dead algae cells can be tasted in the water with a concentration as little as one part per trillion (1 gallon for every 1,000,000,000 gallons), the issue can sometimes linger as it mixes with unaffected water in water tanks and lines.

The taste was first detected early Tuesday morning, September 6, 2016. The algae was discovered quickly and a plan of action was immediately implemented. As of this morning, September 8, 2016, the taste and odor are no longer present at the water plant. Different areas of the community may continue to experience the unpleasant water for a few more days as the water travels through the distribution system.

If you would like further information regarding your drinking water, contact the Bardstown Water Treatment Plant at 502-348-3064.