



New Hampton Village Precinct

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May 6, 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

The New Hampton Village Precinct's Water Department has recently been notified by several of its customers that they are experiencing a discoloration of their water when drawing baths or filling sinks. Subsequent to emptying the tub or basin, when the wet surfaces dried they exhibited a faint blue or greenish residue. Water samples have been collected from several serviced sites and submitted to Eastern Analytical for testing. On May 3rd, they confirmed by phone that all samples passed safe water drinking standards. Though the water is potable the problem of discoloration persists.

What does this mean?

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. However, as our customers you have a right to know what is causing this problem, what the Precinct is doing to correct this situation, and what you should do in the interim.

Background: Since July, 2018 the Precinct contracted to construct a pipeline direct from Mountain Pond down to the Water Treatment plant. Manufacturing delays in the production of pipe as well as unusual weather conditions affecting site access conditions, prevented completion of the pipeline until the second week in January 2019. Since that time, though there have been several interruptions of flow, the primary source of water for the Precinct has been from the pond, processed through the water treatment plant with sodium hypochlorite added as a disinfectant, then passed into the storage tank and finally distributed to the customers.

Precinct actions to date: While waiting for the results of the above noted water sample testing, the Precinct has been in consultation with NHDES- Drinking Water and Ground Water Bureau personnel and also a consultant specializing in Pilot Testing of Water Treatment Systems. We have also tested the **pH** of the water at several locations in the system. Those results indicate the **pH** ranges from 6.2 entering the plant to 6.5 near the intersection of Main Street and Old Bristol Road. **pH** levels are not regulated, however EPA recommends that public water systems maintain **pH** levels between 6.5 and 8.5, while NHDES subscribes to a more neutral 7.0 to 7.5. Water with a low **pH** level can be acidic and possibly corrosive. Based on the test results and the noted discoloration and blue-green residue we believe that the low **pH** is likely the cause of the problem.

Recognizing that most plumbing within structures have copper pipes with lead soldered fittings, we will go out this week and collect new samples specifically for lead and copper analysis. Required to be tested every three years, our last sampling of ten repeated sites was done in June 2018. Though copper was detected in all samples, all were below the Action Level for non-compliance. Lead was detected in seven of the sites, and again they were all in compliance.

By the end of this coming week we expect to establish a chemical feed system that will add a neutralizing agent to the source water as it enters into the storage tank. This will raise the **pH** level to the NHDES recommended level, while at the same time prevent the water from reacting with the structures plumbing or contributing to electrolytic corrosion. This expected improvement will not occur instantaneously, but should reach stabilization within a few weeks.

What should you do?

As the effects of acidity cause corrosion in the plumbing system and are amplified when the water has been sitting in the pipes for several hours, you can minimize the potential for exposure by flushing cold water from your tap for at least 30 seconds before using the water for drinking or cooking. .

If you have any questions, please contact me. Once I receive the results of further testing I will pass them along.

Robert Barry, NHVP Board of Commissioners

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