

Boil Water Notice Rescinded

July 21, 2018

On 7/19/2018, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality required the City of Merkel Public Water System, PWS 2210002, to issue a Boil Water Notice to inform customers, individuals, or employees that due to conditions which occurred recently in the public water system, the water from this public water system was required to be boiled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

The public water system has taken the necessary corrective actions to restore the quality of the water distributed by this public water system used for drinking water or human consumption purposes and has provided TCEQ with laboratory test results that indicate that the water no longer requires boiling prior to use as of 7/21/2018.

If you have questions concerning this matter, you may contact Steve Campbell at 325/928-4911 or 100 Kent Merkel, TX 79536.

Temporary change to water disinfection

The Water Utilities Department will temporarily change the method of disinfection used in its public water supply, beginning July 20, 2018.

The Water Department normally uses chloramine, a mixture of ammonia and chlorine, to disinfect water. Beginning Friday, July 20, 2018 and through August 20, 2018, the Water Department will use chlorine only, also known as "free chlorine." The periodic, temporary conversion from chloramines to free chlorine - a normal procedure for municipal water systems - ensures water safety in distribution lines by ridding the mains of accumulated biological growths, thus yielding the highest quality of drinking water.

Citizens may see more flushing of fire hydrants by City staff during this process. Certain water lines with low flow must be flushed more often to ensure the free chlorinated water is adequately moving through the system. The Water Department does not like doing this during the City's water conservation program, but in some areas it will be necessary.

Free chlorine is a stronger disinfectant than chloramine. As a result, water users may experience a slight change in the aesthetics of their water during the conversion, including a noticeable "chlorine odor" and slight discoloration. Most symptoms should lessen after a couple of weeks and do not affect the safety of the water supply.

The Water Utilities Department encourages kidney dialysis patients to speak with their equipment supplier; different types of equipment may have varying needs and require adjustments.

Additional information and FAQ's will be available Monday, July 23, 2018, on the City of Merkel website.