

Public Notice: City of Burkburnett

September 30, 2022

The City of Burkburnett received written notification from The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate from a sample taken August 16th, 2022, which showed a result of 28 mg/L.

The City of Burkburnett currently operates an ion exchange water treatment plant, which is designed to lower the level of nitrate in our public drinking water. Once the City staff was notified of the spike in nitrate by TCEQ, production of the well water treatment plant was halted, and we began to purchase water from Wichita Falls. By blending the well water with water purchased from Wichita Falls, the City effectively lowered the nitrate levels in the drinking water. The City immediately took additional finished and raw water samples. The raw water sample is 11.5 mg/L and the finished water sample is 1.93 mg/L. We are currently well within the regulated limits for nitrate.

Additionally, The City is working with the original engineering firm that designed the Water Treatment Plant to determine how it is possible to receive a sample result which is higher than the nitrate levels in our raw water source if the sample wasn't taken or tested incorrectly. We will be performing a full audit of operations.

Even though corrective action has been taken and current samples comply with Federal and State drinking water standards, TCEQ still requires the City to issue their template notice for a single sample nitrate exceedance.

Below is the required template:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the **PWS TX2430005 – CITY OF BURKBURNETT** public water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for nitrate to be 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a single sample, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for nitrate indicates a compliance value in **quarter #3 2022** of **28** mg/L.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. If your child is under the age of six months, the child **must** be given an alternative water supply for any consumption. Boiling the affected water is **not** an effective treatment for nitrate removal.

Most consumers do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. At this time, the health effects to fetuses of pregnant women are unclear. If you are pregnant, you may also choose to use an alternative source of water for drinking and cooking purposes.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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 you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Mike Whaley at 940-569-2263, EXT 1004.