

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Deferral Issued for 1,4-Dioxane in the Town of Hempstead**

#### **Why are you receiving this notice/information?**

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical 1,4-Dioxane in your drinking water above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane. The MCLs are set well below levels known to cause health effects in animal studies. Therefore, consuming water with 1,4-dioxane at the level detected does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

The Town of Hempstead has submitted, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has issued, a deferral to the Town of Hempstead. When a public water system is issued a deferral, the water system agrees to a schedule for corrective action and compliance with the new MCLs. In exchange, the Department agrees to defer enforcement actions, such as assessing fines, if the water system is meeting the established deadlines. We are required to update the Department and the Nassau County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the agreed upon deadlines, the Department can resume enforcement.

#### **What are the health effects of 1,4-dioxane?**

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused liver cancer in animals exposed at high levels throughout their lifetime. Other types of cancer have also been reported, although less consistently than liver cancer. There is no evidence of 1,4-dioxane cancer effects in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers 1,4-dioxane a likely human carcinogen based upon studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of 1,4-dioxane detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below 1,4-dioxane exposures associated with health effects.

#### **What is New York State doing about 1,4-Dioxane in public drinking water?**

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for 1,4-dioxane. If found above the MCLs, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

#### **What is being done to remove these contaminants?**

The Town of Hempstead Department of Water has been working with Long Island's leading engineering professionals in the water treatment industry to perform the required treatment system pilot testing and prepare all reports and plans required by State and County regulators to construct the necessary treatment systems to remove

this compound from our water. In total the department will need to construct treatment on 21 of its wells at eleven different well sites.

Most water suppliers on Long Island have experienced similar levels of this contaminant in their water and are going through a similar process to our department. The increased demand for materials to construct these complex facilities will increase supply lead times as systems are approved for construction. In order to expedite these projects through their construction phase and limit any supply delays, the Department of Water will be bidding out filter vessel supply contracts ahead of the construction bids. This will provide a six month head start on the manufacturing of these items and ensure that there are no material delays once site construction begins. In order to ensure that contracts can be bid and awarded as soon as they are approved by regulatory agencies the Town Board recently passed a series of resolution to fund these treatment systems.

You can keep updated on the progress of these projects by regularly visiting our emerging contaminants page at [WWW.HEMPSTEADNY.GOV/WATER-DEPARTMENT/ECI](http://WWW.HEMPSTEADNY.GOV/WATER-DEPARTMENT/ECI).

By conserving water, residents can help reduce how often the department needs to run the effected wells. Until these systems are constructed the Town of Hempstead will operate affected wells in a “last on/first off” fashion to minimize exposure to 1,4-Dioxane in drinking water. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible. The deferral is effective until August 25, 2022.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information, please contact Water Quality Control Specialist John Markwalter at 516-296-7245 [JMarkwalter@TOHMAIL.org](mailto:JMarkwalter@TOHMAIL.org) or Commissioner of Water John Reinhardt at 516-296-7200 [JReinhardt@TOHMAIL.org](mailto:JReinhardt@TOHMAIL.org).

You can also contact the Nassau County Department of Health, Office of Public Water Supply Protection and Groundwater Assessment at (516) 227-9692.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

**Public Water System ID# 2900000**  
Town of Hempstead Department of Water  
1995 Prospect Avenue  
East Meadow, New York 11554

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