

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

### **Deferral Issued for 1,4-Dioxane in the Village 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 Village of Hempstead has submitted, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has issued, a deferral to the Village 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. In the interim, the Village of Hempstead will continue to reduce exposure by minimizing use of the most impacted sources.

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

The Village of Hempstead is running a pilot study for an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) System to treat the water for 1,4-Dioxane. Once the pilot study is completed and the results examined the Village will begin the process to build a full scale AOP.

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, 2023.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information, please contact Steve Giardino at 516-478-6267 or 99 James A. Garner Way. You can also contact the Nassau County Health Department at 516-227-9714.

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#** 2902827

**Date** [ distribution date ]