IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Ridgewood Water Fails to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Our water system recently violated a drinking water treatment standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation. Our system has installed corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the July through December 2019, monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our optimized corrosion control system, specifically optimal pH. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set at three system entry points, 110 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

What does this mean? This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Water Quality parameters are just one part in the myriad of parameters that affect lead and copper release into drinking water. Ridgewood Water's 2019 round of Lead and Copper Sampling has indicated that lead and copper levels are below the NJDEP/EPA Action Level.

However, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What should I do? Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- Find out if you have a lead service line. Call Ridgewood Water at 201-670-3372 to find out if your home or business has a lead service line.
- Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it contains. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for about 15 to 30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water. **For those with lead service lines or until you determine if you are served by one, let the water run from the tap longer based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly.**
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Test your water. Water testing kits are available. Please contact our office at 201-670-5520.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove Lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce Lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

What is being done? Ridgewood Water is completing the following steps to return into compliance: (1) having pH values above the established minimum pH value at the referenced locations, (2) increasing the minimum amount of lead and copper samples from 30 to 60 at a frequency of every six months starting with the 1st half of 2020, and (3) creating a new Quality Control procedures for the sampling and reporting of Water Quality Parameters. For more information, please contact Ridgewood Water at (201) 670- 5526.

This notice is being sent to you by Ridgewood Water. State Water System ID#: NJ0251001.

Date distributed: Monday, April 27th, 2020.

Ridgewood Water
131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07451

RIDGEWOOD WATER – PWSID 0251001 – NON EMERGENCY NOTICE

On March 5th, 2020, Ridgewood Water was notified by the NJDEP that we were deemed out of compliance for Water Quality Parameters, specifically water pH, for the monitoring period 7/1/2019 – 12/31/2019.

Water Quality Parameters include values set by the State for the pH levels in your drinking water. pH is a simple measure of how acidic or basic a given water sample is determined to be. pH is highly variable and changes due to factors such as an increase or decrease in temperature, alkalinity, or carbon dioxide levels. The enclosed notice does not pertain to any primary contaminant in your drinking water. These parameters are tested bi-weekly at every active point of entry delivering water to your home and twice every six months at 10 different points throughout our service area.

Three (3) of the active system points of entry's had a slightly lower pH than the level prescribed by the NJDEP, which triggered this notice. It is important to note that although these individual points tested below the established minimum pH value, the Distribution System's overall pH was never below the NJDEP-prescribed 7.0 level, due to blending with the other system points of entry. Ridgewood Water tests over 1,000 of these Water Quality Parameters samples each year, and we remain committed to complying with all NJDEP-issued guidance and regulations. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ridgewood Water's Treatment division at (201) 670-5526.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, 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.