

**CITY OF WATERVLIET
STATE OF NEW YORK**

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GENERAL MANAGER

April 7, 2022

Dear Resident:

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. **** Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. ****

You may ask:

What should I do?

*There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water

*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. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.
**** Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.***
* These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

As soon as the issue was noticed - on Wednesday morning, March 23rd at 6am, we immediately began to address the situation. The chemical feeder line was repaired within 10 minutes, feeder lines were flushed, and checked to be in full working order. All filter beds were backwashed that day, and again the on following day(s). Constant disinfection was maintained and monitored throughout the duration. Extra disinfection was begun immediately, in an abundance of caution. Also, fire hydrant flushing was begun to first remove and divert as much of the turbid water away from our distribution system. And the following day more hydrant flushing was done to remove any turbid water that had reached our distribution system. On Friday, water entering our distribution system was within DOH standards for turbidity.

****Normal turbidity levels at our plant are .045 turbidity units. A water sample taken on March 24th showed a level of 2.27 turbidity units. This was above the standard of .300 turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.****

****Water samples for March showed that 5.4 percent of turbidity measurements were over .300 turbidity units - the standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed .300 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are .045 turbidity units.****

For more information, please contact Watervliet Water Filtration Plant at (518) 785 - 7082 or waterdept@watervliet.com. Additionally, the Albany County Department of Health may be contacted at (518) 447 - 4620.

****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.****

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Watervliet Water Filtration Plant. State Water System ID# NY0110127

Date Distributed: April 7th, 2022

Sincerely:

Joseph LaCivita, General Manager
City of Watervliet