

[Link sent by Monroe County emergency alert system on Aug. 17, 2024 around 3:15 p.m.]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON UTILITIES

Our water system recently violated a drinking water 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 are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets EPA's health standards. 8/16/2024 results showed turbidity levels above the maximum level of 1 NTU permitted by the rule. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may have contained disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for drinking, cooking, and ice making should be boiled and cooled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes. The water should be brought to a vigorous rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes.

In lieu of boiling, individuals may purchase bottled water or obtain water from some other suitable source for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

When it is no longer necessary to boil the water, the public water system officials will notify customers that the water is safe for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

Once the boil water notice is no longer in effect, the public water system will issue a notice to customers that rescinds the boil water notice in a manner similar to this notice.

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).

What does this mean?

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. If you experience one or more of these symptoms and they persist, contact your doctor. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

At the water treatment plant, sand that is used as a filter accidentally spilled over its tank. This increased the turbidity (cloudiness from suspended matter) of the water. Staff immediately stopped the spill, stopped water from flowing, and began testing the water every 15 minutes for contamination. No contaminants have been detected and water is flowing again. We expect the turbidity to back within normal limits by 9am Monday 8/19/2024 or sooner. Until then, Monroe County will be under a precautionary boil water advisory.

The spill occurred due to operator error during maintenance. All treatment materials and equipment have been inspected and are functioning normally.

For more information, please go to bloomington.in.gov/utilities or call 812-339-1444.