

PUBLIC NOTICE:
JEFFERSON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM
Failure to Meet Standard for Total Trihalomethanes at the end of the
1st Quarter 2010
Includes Customers of Festus and Herculaneum

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Background

Like all public water systems, the Jefferson County Water Authority public water system (PWS ID # MO6071352, Jefferson Co.) is required to maintain adequate water treatment and test its drinking water system for a number of possible contaminants. Recent test shows this system failed to meet the standard for one group of contaminants. This water system serves largely the cities of Festus and Herculaneum.

What violations of standards have recently occurred?

Standards for contaminants in drinking water are called maximum contaminant levels (MCL's); an exceedence of the MCL results in a violation. The Jefferson County Water Authority has exceeded MCL of 80 parts per billion (ppb) for a group of chemicals called total trihalomethanes (TTHM's). For this group of chemicals, compliance with the MCL is based on the running annual average (RAA) of quarterly samples. At the end of the 1st quarter of 2010 at Jefferson County Water Authority, this running annual average was 84 ppb. Since this exceeds the MCL for TTHM's, a violation has occurred for that time period.

Why are TTHM's present in drinking water?

TTHM's are disinfection byproducts which are formed when disinfectants such as chlorine react with naturally occurring organic matter in source water. Disinfection is necessary to kill harmful microbes such as bacteria and viruses before it reaches consumers.

Is there an immediate health concern?

No, there is no immediate risk from drinking water which exceeds this MCL. This MCL is based on long-term exposure of drinking two liters (about two quarts) of water every day for seventy years. Although this is not an emergency, as a customer receiving water from Jefferson County Water Authority, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what is being done to correct the situation.

What are the long-term health effects of TTHM's?

In addition to an increased risk of getting cancer, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system.

What should I do?

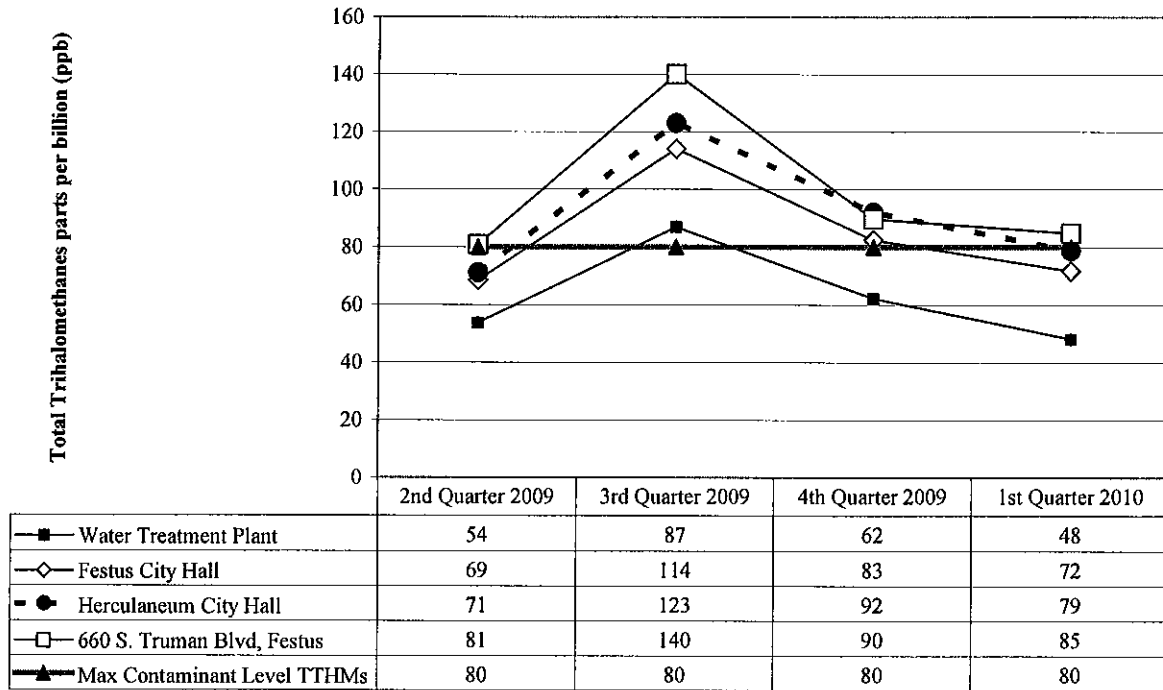
If you have specific health concerns, please consult your healthcare provider.

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What were the results of quarterly testing for this group of chemicals?

Individual sample results can vary widely depending on the sampling site and time of year. Every quarter this system collects four samples, with 16 collected over the course of a year. From the 2nd quarter of 2009 through the 1st quarter of 2010, individual sample results ranged from a minimum of 48 ppb to a maximum of 140 ppb. The following graph and table summarize the quarterly sample results:

Jefferson County Water Authority: Total Trihalomethanes Results
 1st Quarter 2010 Running Annual Average = 84 parts per billion
 Maximum Contaminant Level = 80 parts per billion



What corrective actions are underway? The Water Authority is in the process of changing disinfectants that will reduce trihalomethanes below the maximum level. We anticipate the project to be completed by November, 2010 and will continue to provide notice of future trihalomethane levels.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact water system staff indicated below:

Tom Ward, Manager at 636-933-0106 or 1682 Crystal Heights Rd, Festus MO. 63028

Additionally you may contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' St. Louis Regional Office at 314-416-2960 or Public Drinking Water Branch at 573-751-5331. You may also call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The hotline operates Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm CT.

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.