



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
933 EAST COURT STREET, SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155

## Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant Announces Temporary Modification to Disinfection Process

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**SEGUIN-** Beginning Monday, June 20, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) began temporarily substituting chlorine, instead of a chlorine/ammonia compound, as the disinfecting agent in the drinking water treatment process at the Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant. According to Herbert R. Wittliff, manager for Port Lavaca Operations, chlorine will be used for several weeks, after which the plant will resume using chlorine/ammonia.

“Chlorine and chlorine/ammonia are both excellent disinfecting agents and are used extensively in the drinking water industry to safeguard the finished water against bacteria that cause water-borne illnesses,” said Wittliff. “However, the substitution of chlorine alone on a periodic basis is recommended by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), in order to provide more stability to the disinfecting process and to remove any excess ammonia that might accumulate in the distribution systems over time.”

As part of the process, the three wholesale customers of GBRA – the City of Port Lavaca, the Calhoun County Rural Water System of GBRA, and the Port O’Connor Water District -- will be closely monitoring the disinfectant residual in their water mains, and will increase their flushing activities to provide a more rapid change-out of the water.

“Our drinking water is very safe and may be consumed with confidence by our customers,” said Gary Broz, City Manager. “It is possible that there may be some minor taste and odor problems due to interaction of the disinfectants. However, the flushing program should take care of most of these situations.”

The Port O’Connor Municipal Utility District and the Rural Water system of GBRA should experience a smooth transition, according to Wittliff, due primarily to the sole use of plastic pipe in these newer systems. Cast-iron piping, which still exists in much of the Port Lavaca water distribution system, tends to require a more aggressive flushing program.

For more information, please contact your specific drinking water provider: City of Port Lavaca 552-9793 X221, GBRA Rural Water 552-9751, or Port O’Connor 983-2652.