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July 3, 2019

Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant to Start Temporary Disinfection Process July 8

SEGUIN, Texas — The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) will temporarily substitute chlorine for the current chloramine disinfectant used in the treatment of drinking water at Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant (PLWTP). This annual conversion will begin Monday, July 8, 2019, and will continue through Sunday, July 28, 2019. Water from the Port Lavaca WTP is safe to drink during this time.

GBRA is required to properly disinfect the water and must maintain an adequate amount of disinfectant in the distribution system. Chloramine is a long-lasting disinfectant added to public drinking water for disinfection. It is formed by combining chlorinated water with small amounts of ammonia and is commonly used throughout Texas.

A chlorine conversion occurs when a water system that typically uses chloramine stops adding ammonia to the treatment process. This temporary conversion to chlorine, when coupled with flushing of the water distribution system, helps rid distribution pipes of organic material and improve the quality of the water overall.

“GBRA coordinates this preventive maintenance activity with the water system managers of the City of Port Lavaca, Port O’Connor Improvement District, Calhoun County Rural Water, and La Salle Water Control and Improvement District each year,” said Ronnie Parenica, manager at the GBRA water treatment plant. “Customers may notice a change in the taste and odor during this time, but be assured; the water meets all state and federal standards and is safe to drink.”

For more information, please contact your local drinking water provider:

City of Port Lavaca	(361) 552-3347
GBRA Rural Water	(361) 552-9751
Port O’Connor ID	(361) 983-2652
La Salle Customers	(361) 983-2652 or (361) 552-9751

About

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio counties.

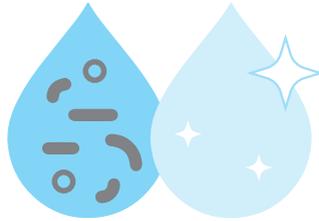


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Temporary Change in Drinking Water Disinfectant

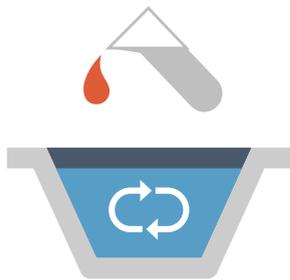
What is the temporary change in water disinfection?

GBRA disinfects water using chloramines (chlorine + ammonia) as part of the treatment process to eliminate bacteria and viruses. Chloramines help reduce the formation of trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, which are disinfection by products thought to be cancer-causing agents. Chloramines are also a more stable disinfectant than chlorine and lasts longer as water travels through miles of pipes to homes and businesses. One drawback of chloramines is continuous use can lead to a buildup of ammonia in the pipes that can allow algae to form in the distribution system. Each summer, GBRA temporarily stops adding ammonia to the treatment process and uses chlorine to improve the quality of water overall.



Is the chlorine level tested during this period?

Yes, the chlorine level is tested several times daily at the water treatment plant and at multiple locations within the distribution system.



Why is this change necessary?

This change is a common water system maintenance practice among water providers in states with warmer climates. GBRA uses this practice to maintain and ensure high quality water in the public distribution system.



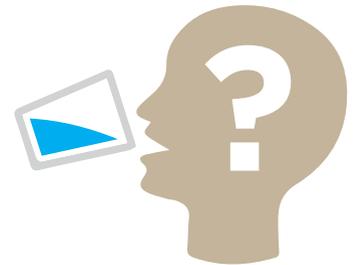
What can I do if I don't like the chlorine taste or smell?

The closer you live to the water treatment plant, the more noticeable the chlorine odor or taste may be. Some tips to reduce the taste or smell of chlorine include refrigerating water in an open pitcher, adding a slice of citrus/cucumber several hours before using, or using a National Science Foundation (NSF/ANSI) approved water filter. Find more tips at www/nsf.gov.



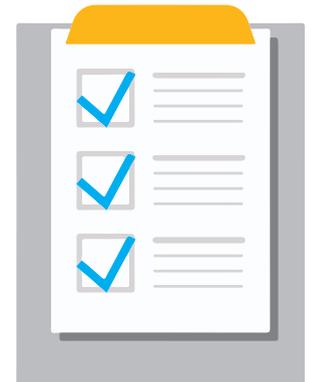
Is the water safe to drink?

Yes, water from the Port Lavaca WTP is safe to drink during the disinfection process.



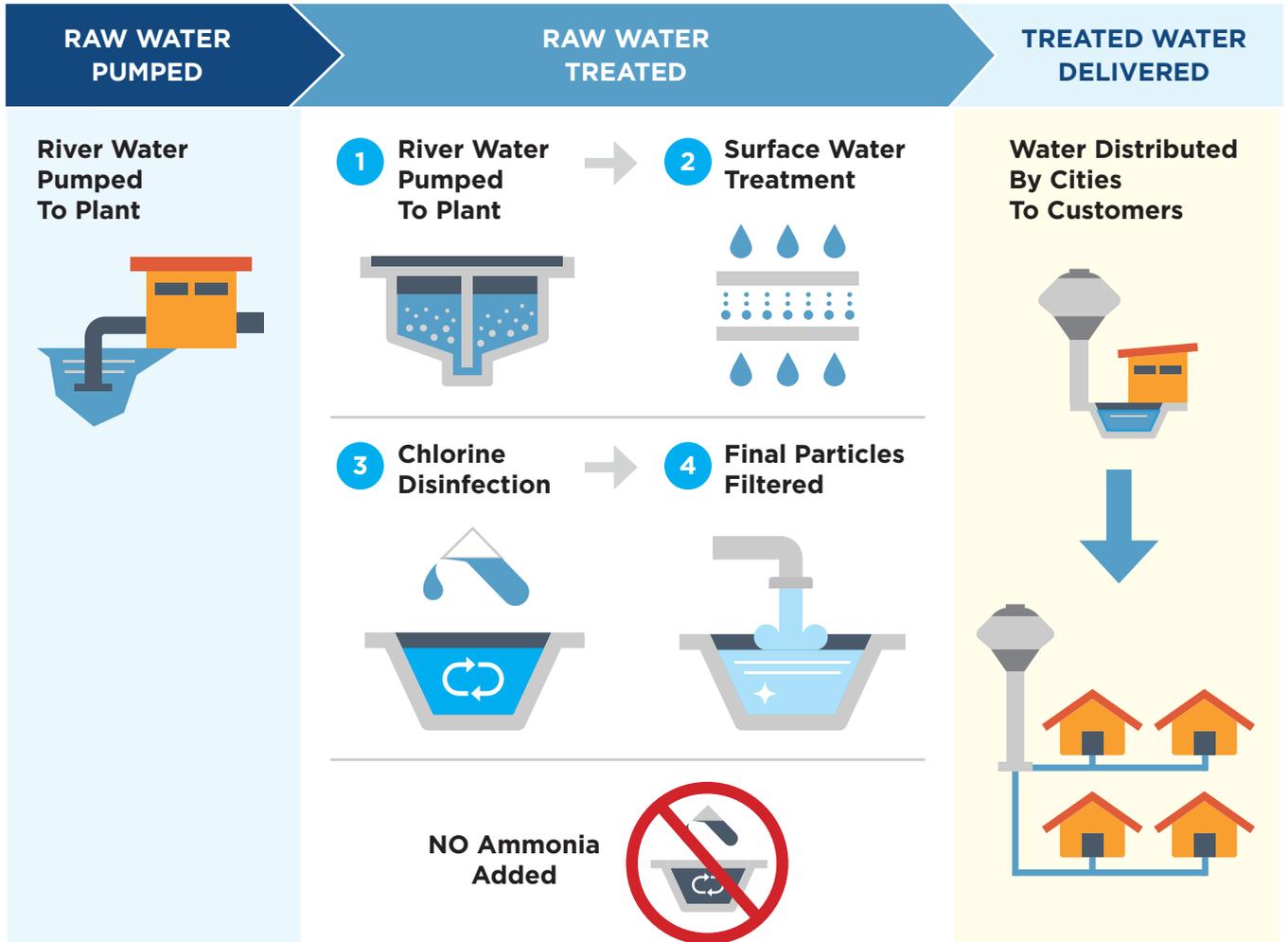
What did the 2018 test results show?

In 2018, GBRA met all chlorine level requirements by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the disinfectant change.

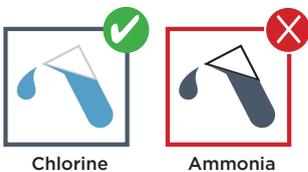




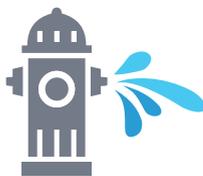
Temporary Change In Water Process



DURING CHANGE IN DISINFECTANT ...



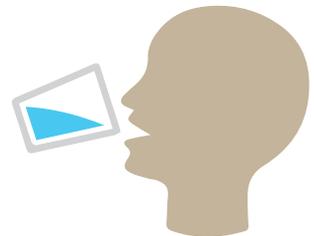
Ammonia is removed from the disinfection process without ammonia. The chlorine in the water may be more noticeable, but the amount is consistent with levels year round.



Flushing from fire hydrants can be an important part of maintaining the water system and high water quality. Cities may flush to move water through the pipes more quickly.



Testing is continually conducted throughout to ensure water quality. Results are posted on city and GBRA websites.



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