

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Idledale Water and Sanitation District

Failure to Meet New Water Treatment Requirements

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

The water system for the Idledale Water & Sanitation District (“the District”) was recently cited by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) for failure to install filtration improvements by the mandated deadline of August 13, 2021.

The District’s primary water sources are two wells, denoted as Wells 1A and 1B, located near the water storage tank, approximately one mile north of the intersection of Southeast and Southwest Grapevine Road. The wells have been in production and serving the community for over 30 years. In 2020 the CDPHE determined that the water produced by these wells is “Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water.” (lake or stream water). The district has no alternate water sources and is dependent upon wells to satisfy its water demand. With this reclassification the District is required to install filtration in addition to its existing chemical disinfection protocol, as the combination of disinfection *with* filtration is the best method of removing disease causing organisms. We have not yet installed the required filtration and therefore have not yet met this requirement. At the time of the reclassification the CDPHE directed the District to increase its chemical sanitization from approximately 1 milligram Sodium Hypochlorite per liter of water (1 mg/L) to a minimum of 2 mg/L. The District will maintain this level of treatment until filtration is installed. The deadline for installation was August 13, 2021, and we should have notified you at that time that the deadline for installation had not been met, and therefore failed to notify you of the situation in a timely manner.

Background Information:

Due to the increasing scarcity of water the District was forced to import (haul in via tanker truck) water in 2019 and in 2020 at great expense. In 2021 District brought a third well into limited production to increase production and protect against system failure. The District also took measures to improve the yield in wells 1A and 1B. The procurement and delivery of reliable source water has been the District’s primary focus for the past several years. To that end the District has developed a comprehensive capital improvement plan and financing strategy and is actively pursuing the funding to construct the improvements.

The District tests its water monthly, quarterly and semiannually for various forms of bacteria, viruses, metals and other potential contaminants and is unaware of any cases of contamination. While the locations and physical attributes of the wells have not changed, the source water has been classified as being under the influence of surface water. Surface water carries certain risks of contamination by disease causing organisms. Until the mandated filtration is installed, we are required to provide this notice every three months, including the following information:

Precautionary Measures:

- You may want to use an alternative drinking water supply (e.g., bottled). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. A home filter will not necessarily solve the problem, because not all home filters protect against parasites. Call NSF International at 1(800) NSF-8010 or the Water Quality Association at 1(800) 749-0234 for information on appropriate filters.
- Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not only caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to consult your doctor.
- This advisory is NOT related to COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that the “Virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water.” For additional information on COVID-19 and drinking water, you can refer to the CDPHE’s website: <https://covid19.colorado.gov>.
- If you have an infant, severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your doctor about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Action Plan:

1. **THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY.** If it had been you would have been notified immediately.
2. The District has opted to install the filtration improvements at the same time as other major improvements; thereby including them in the overall capital improvements plan.
3. The District is working with the CDPHE and USDA to obtain financing to fund the capital improvements plan having an estimated cost of approximately \$2,000,000.00
4. The preliminary engineering and needs assessment necessary to pursue the financing is complete.
5. The district plans to have the filtration installed by April 1, 2024.

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 public places or by distributing copies by hand. Please let us know via the contact information below if we need to update your contact information. For more information, please contact AJ Beckman, the District Manager at: Public Alliance, 405 Urban St., Suite 310, Lakewood, CO 80228. Phone: 720-213-6621. Email: aj@publicalliancellc.com. Thank you.

Board of Directors
Idledeale Water & Sanitation District