

City of Port Arthur

Acute Turbidity Violation

October 22, 2012

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water. One of these standards is a turbidity limit. Turbidity by itself has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may also 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. These symptoms can be particularly severe in people who are not as resistant to infections as most of the population. If you experience severe symptoms please consult with your doctor to determine what actions you should take. The City of Port Arthur failed to meet the minimum treatment technique requirements on October 22, 2012. Specifically, the turbidity level of our treated water was above 1.0 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. This violation was corrected on October 22, 2012. Drinking water which is treated to meet TCEQ requirements is associated with little to none of these risk and should be considered safe. This is a precautionary measure only. All disinfection requirements were achieved during the turbidity violation. If you want more information about the nature and significance of this violation, you may contact John Tomplait at the Port Arthur Water Plant at (409) 983-3841. 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.