

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is to advise our customers that the City of Paola public water system has exceeded the drinking water standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). Although **this incident is not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

The Marais Des Cygnes Public Utility Authority (the City of Paola's water supplier) adds chlorine to the drinking water as a disinfectant. In addition to protecting against harmful bacteria in the water, disinfectants also form by-products—DBPs—in the drinking water. Trihalomethanes are one of these disinfection by-products. The USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) and KDHE (Kansas Department of Health & Environment) set maximum levels for both disinfectants and disinfection by-products. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM based on the average of four calendar quarterly samples at any given location is 80 parts per billion (ppb).

As required by law, the City of Paola routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. The violation occurred on the test results from one sampling site in the second and third quarters of 2015 with running averages of 83.25 and 87.00 respectively. However, based on test results for the two site samples collected in the four calendar quarters beginning in November of 2014, the running annual averages for TTHMs are shown in the table below.

<b>DATE/TWO SAMPLE AVERAGE</b>	<b>TTHM (ppb)</b>
2014 Fourth Quarter Sample Averages November 2014	87.5
2015 First Quarter Sample Averages February 2015	45.5
2015 Second Quarter Sample Averages May 2015	120
2015 Third Quarter Sample Averages August 2015	70.5
<b>Running Annual Average</b>	<b>80.875</b>
<b>MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) for the four calendar quarters</b>	<b>80</b>

### ***What should I do?***

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, you should consult your doctor.

### ***What does this mean?***

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water that contains TTHM in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. For more detailed information on possible health risks of TTHMs, go to <http://cdc.gov/safewater/chlorination-byproducts.html>

***What happened? What is being done?***

Trihalomethanes are one of the most common disinfection by-products. Disinfection by-products form when chlorine used for disinfection reacts with organic matter present in the water. Annually, the City's water supplier hyper-chlorinates the water distribution system to ensure the elimination of harmful bacteria in the system. This hyper-chlorinate sometimes leads to higher short term TTHM levels in the distribution system. The samples we submitted for TTHM testing in November of 2014 and May of 2015 were taken during or immediately following a high or a hyper-chlorination event. As a result, much higher than normal TTHM levels were detected and reported. Since current regulations require the averaging the results of the last four calendar quarters for determining compliance, the sample with higher than normal chlorination by-products was included in the calculation for the MCL threshold.

The City of Paola is working closely with the Marais Des Cygnes Public Utility Authority (PUA) treatment plant staff and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to make operational changes necessary to ensure compliance with all water standards and to reduce future TTHM values. Some steps that have been taken by the City of Paola and the PUA are a reduction in daily chlorination levels and better notification procedures during higher than normal daily chlorination periods.

We will continue to monitor and report TTHM results to you should there be any future exceeding of MCL standards. If you have any questions concerning this situation, please do not hesitate to contact Jay Wieland, City Manager, by any of the following means:

- Phone: 913-259-3600
- Mail: 19 E. Peoria; Paola, KS 66071
- Email: [jwieland@cityofpaola.com](mailto:jwieland@cityofpaola.com)

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 the notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Paola. State Water System ID#: S4000 Federal ID#: KS212103

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