

Public Notice

June 24, 2021

On **August 2nd, 2021**, the disinfectant in the Okmulgee County Rural Water District One will be shifting from chlorine to chloramines. This change is intended to benefit customers by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBP's) in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease.

Chloramine disinfection involves chemically bonding free chlorine with an ammonia solution that produces a more stable disinfectant, chloramine which provides for longer lasting disinfection in the system. It has been used widely and safely in many places including:

- Abroad, in Canada, and Britain for over 90 years
- The US, including Oklahoma, in cities such as Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Sand Springs.

Chloraminated water is safe for bathing, drinking, cooking and everyday uses. However, Chloramine like chlorine must be removed from water before treating kidney dialysis patients and before use in aquariums, fishponds and reptile water habitats

Kidney dialysis patients should contact their physician or local dialysis center for guidance on modifications to dialysis machines and procedures. Medical centers that perform dialysis have been notified and are responsible for purifying the water that enters dialysis machines. Under normal circumstances chloramines are neutralized in the digestive process, however when chloraminated water interacts directly with the blood stream it can cause a condition called Hemolytic anemia. **Kidney dialysis patients can still bathe, drink and cook** with chloraminated water.

Fish, shellfish, and other cold-blooded animal owners must treat water before adding it to tanks or ponds. Like chlorine, chloramine is toxic to fish and other cold-blooded animals because it enters the bloodstream directly through gills or skin. Your pets can be protected by using chloramine neutralizers or specialized carbon filters to treat the water before exposing pets. A tap water conditioner that neutralizes chlorine, chloramine and ammonia is suggested. Unlike chlorine, letting a tank "air out" for a few days will not remove chloramines from the water

The ORWD1 has an expansive networking of piping (approx.64 miles). Transition from chlorinated water to chloraminated water throughout the system will take some time. While this transition occurs, the chlorine and chloramines may react and cause some slight taste, odor, and discoloration issues for a short period. This will not compromise the safety of the water. To help facilitate the transition, workers may be flushing hydrants in various areas to help speed the process.

We are thankful for the opportunity to provide,

- **public health protection**, through prevention of waterborne disease,
- **fire protection** to residents by providing water source and pressure throughout the city,
- And, **quality of life** through access to water for our businesses, our homes, our yards and recreation.

We look forward to continuing to serve your needs in the future. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition.

For more information, please contact the Okmulgee Rural Water District One Office between 8am-4pm at (918)652-9546 or PO BOX 205,Schulter, OK 74460. This notice is being sent by the ORWD1. State Water System ID#3005605