

Drinking Water Notice & Update

Dear Property Owners,

On July 7, 2016, Wallenpaupack Lake Estates was notified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that they had received a complaint by one of our property owners regarding poor water quality. Our Water & Sewer Department has assured the Board of Directors that our water system is completely safe and continuously monitored in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations.

At the July 16, 2016, Board of Directors meeting, additional complaints of water quality were discussed. Immediately following that meeting the Board of Directors ordered testing on all five (5) wells that supply water to our community and a review by an independent Engineering Firm. Our Water & Sewer Department has been treating three (3) wells since fall of 2010 for Iron and Manganese. High levels of iron and manganese do not pose any known adverse health risks. Secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCL) recommended in the EPA National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations are set for esthetic reasons by the EPA, but are intended as guides to the States. The SMCL for iron is 0.3 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the SMCL for manganese is 0.05 mg/L. States may adopt SMCL's as guidelines or enforce them as contaminants. Based on that information, on July 22, 2016, samples were taken and testing was requested for what is called Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCL). On August 03, 2016, the results of this testing indicated high levels of Manganese at two (2) of our five (5) supply wells. The following test results for manganese were:

- Beaver Well 0.0760 mg/L and
- Main Club House Well 0.166 mg/L

Additional testing was conducted on August 11, 2016, at three (3) of our wells that tested positive to Manganese. Three (3) samples were taken at each well and distribution system. The following results from each of the nine (9) samples taken are listed below:

- one (1) at each well head
 - Beaver Lodge – 0.066
 - Ski Bluff – 0.052
 - Main Club House – 0.2
- one (1) at each well after water treatment
 - Beaver Lodge – 0.067
 - Ski Bluff – 0.046
 - Main Club House – 0.16
- one (1) at a sampling point in each distribution system
 - Beaver distribution system – 0.029

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- Ski Bluff distribution system – 0.014
- Main Club House distribution system – 0.01

On August 17, 2016, the Board met with Farr Engineering Firm (an independent engineering firm). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the best ways to treat the Iron and Manganese in three (3) of our wells. We also discussed the possibility of completing an audit of our water system by Farr Engineering to ensure we are handling and treating our drinking water in the most efficient and safe way.

Iron and manganese are common in groundwater supplies used by many water systems. Iron is the more frequent of these two contaminants, but they often occur together. High levels of these contaminants can result in discolored water, stained plumbing fixtures, and an unpleasant metallic taste of the water. This can lead to customer complaints about the water. There are a wide variety of problems related to secondary contaminants. These problems can be grouped into three categories:

- Aesthetic effects – undesirable tastes or odors;
- Cosmetic effects – effects which do not damage the body but are still undesirable;
- Technical effects – damage to water equipment or reduced effectiveness of treatment for other contaminants

Manganese falls into two of these categories for secondary drinking water standards:

- Aesthetic standards related to odor, taste and color.
- Technical standards related to corrosion and staining.

Some instances that cause discolored water are water main breaks and heavy water demand. One of the ways to prevent discolored water from making it to your faucet is by installing a standard inline water filter on your water line where it enters your home. These filters use a basic yarn which catches the suspended iron and manganese.

Further action and recommendations will be taken by the Board of Directors following the recommendations from the Farr Engineering Firm.

The Board of Directors for Wallenpaupack Lake Estates