

YOUR DRINKING WATER

Village of Altamont Has Levels of Manganese Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On 2/23/2022, we received notice that the sample collected on 2/17/2022 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for manganese. The standard for manganese is 0.3 mg/L. Manganese was found at 0.59 mg/L. We sampled again for manganese on 3/8/2022 and received the results of 0.28 mg/L on 3/14/2022. Because the average of the two samples, equaling 0.435 mg/L, exceeds the MCL of 0.3 mg/l this action had to be taken.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **You do not need to** boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, Manganese is a common element and occurs naturally in rocks, soil, water, plants, and animals. While small amounts of manganese can be expected in most sources of drinking water, contamination of drinking water can occur when manganese gets into surface or groundwater after unusually high levels dissolve from rocks and soil. Manganese can also contaminate drinking water after improper waste disposal in landfills or by facilities using manganese in the production of steel or other products.

Manganese is an essential nutrient that is necessary to maintain good health. However, exposure to too much manganese can cause adverse health effects. There is some evidence from human studies that long-term exposure to manganese in drinking water is associated with nervous system effects in adults (e.g., weakness, stiff muscles and trembling of the hands) and children (effects on learning and behavior). The results of these studies only suggest, but can't prove, that manganese exposure led to the effects because the possible influences of other factors were not adequately assessed. Some studies suggest that infants could be vulnerable to adverse neurodevelopmental effects from manganese because infants may absorb more and excrete less manganese

compared to adults. In addition, formula contains higher manganese concentrations than human milk, which could increase exposure to formula fed infants. There is supporting evidence that manganese causes nervous system effects in humans from occupational studies of workers exposed to high levels of manganese in air, but there are uncertainties in relating these studies to drinking water exposure because the exposures were quite elevated and by inhalation, not by ingestion.

What is being done?

Although we have not been required to test for manganese up to this point, we have been sampling on our own and forwarding the results to the Health Department. It was for this reason that we were able to catch this quick and take the well site off line. Because this site only produces 30 percent of our production, there should be no problems in the short term with our supply. We are working with the Health Department and the Village Engineers to clear up this problem and put this site back in use.

For more information, please contact Jeff Moller at (518) 861- 8554 ext 16 or Larry Adams at (518) 861 - 6913 with the Village of Altamont or mail at P.O. Box 643 Altamont, N.Y. 12009. Additionally, please also contact Maxwell Ferris at (518) 447 – 4620 with the Albany County Department of Health.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Village of Altamont. State Water System ID#: NY0100190

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