



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING NEW BRIGHTON'S WATER

April 16, 2015

Dear Resident:

Providing a safe and reliable water supply is one of the most important functions that New Brighton performs. New Brighton successfully dealt with the Army's contamination of its water supply in the 1980s. In 2014, the City and the Army reached a landmark settlement that secures funding for our state-of-the-art water treatment plant which is designed to remove known Army contaminants. The City now has taken further steps to address a newly-identified contaminant.

Discovery of Contaminant of Emerging Concern

Scientific and technological advances have resulted in better methods for detecting contaminants at extremely low concentrations. Using this technology, testing by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and independently verified by the City, has detected trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane (dioxane) in the City's water. Dioxane is an additive found in solvents that were used at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant.

No regulatory limit on the amount of dioxane permitted in drinking water has yet been set under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The MDH, however, has set an advisory limit of 1 part per billion (ppb). The recent testing conducted by MDH and the City has detected dioxane at levels ranging from 2.9 ppb to 5.5 ppb. This newly-identified contaminant is not unique to New Brighton; it has been found in states across the country, including Arizona, New York, Kansas, New Hampshire, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.

Response to Newly-Identified Contaminant

Although the health risk is very low and there are no enforceable state or federal dioxane regulations, the City takes any risk seriously. The City has already taken steps to remove the risk by using wells in a deeper aquifer that have been confirmed to be dioxane-free. The City will continue to use these dioxane-free wells until a proven treatment technology, funded by the Army, is in place to remove dioxane from wells where it has been detected. The Army has stated that it is committed to working cooperatively with the City to develop this response.


Annual Open House at the Community Center on May 2, 2015

The City has posted additional information concerning dioxane on its webpage (<http://www.ci.new-brighton.mn.us>), including links to fact sheets prepared by the MDH and the USEPA. As more information becomes available to your local leaders, we will continue to communicate with you. If you have questions, please attend a presentation that will be made at the Town Hall/Annual Open House on May 2, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the New Brighton Community Center. Representatives of the MDH, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Army, the City's consultants, and I will be present to answer your questions.

Your Mayor, Council, and the City's professional staff have always been and will remain proactive in ensuring that your water is safe. I am confident that with the assistance of our consultants and the state and federal agencies, we will develop a permanent response to the newly-identified contaminant. In the meantime, the City will continue to use the uncontaminated wells that have been confirmed to be dioxane-free.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Lotter". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a cursive "L" for "Lotter".

Dean Lotter
City Manager