



Dear Resident,

In February 2015, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) informed New Brighton that it had detected the substance 1,4-dioxane (dioxane) in the City’s shallow wells, which are located in the Prairie Du Chien and Jordan aquifers. It was detected at levels slightly above the Health Risk Limit for dioxane, as set by the State of Minnesota. As we reported in April, any health risk associated with the low-level concentrations that were detected is very small.

Despite these low-level concentrations of dioxane, the City takes all potential health risks seriously and it responded proactively. On April 15, 2015, the City, with support from MDH, initiated an Interim Response plan, which suspended use of the contaminated shallow wells, and began using the deeper, dioxane-free Mt. Simon/Hinckley wells to meet our water supply needs. Under the Interim Response plan, water from the shallower wells will be used only on a temporary and intermittent basis to supplement water from the Mt. Simon/Hinckley wells during the summer months when demand is higher, and only as necessary.

2015 Water Use

Early in the summer of 2015, the City updated its website <http://www.ci.new-brighton.mn.us/> to indicate our current water status and installed signage (as shown below) at entry points to the City. These actions were intended to encourage residents to conserve water and minimize wasteful water practices, in order to reduce summer demand and avoid or minimize the necessity of using the shallower wells to supplement the water supply.



I am pleased to report that since April 15, 2015, when the City implemented its plan to switch to the deeper, dioxane-free wells, no traces of dioxane have been detected in the water delivered to residents. The combination of robust water conservation efforts and very favorable weather conditions, with well-timed rainfalls, meant that water demands were met entirely by the deeper, dioxane-free wells.

Water Source

The City will continue to use the Mt. Simon/Hinckley wells as its primary water supply until a new dioxane treatment facility is completed in 2018. Water from the shallower wells, which is

pumped through Water Treatment Plant 1, will only be used on a temporary, as-needed basis to supplement the water from the deeper wells during the summer months to meet peak demand. To ensure we have a secondary (backup) source of safe water, the City Council supports the construction of an interconnection pipe between New Brighton's water distribution system and the Minneapolis Hilltop Reservoir, which lies adjacent to our Water Plant. The interconnection will ensure that, in the event of a very hot, dry summer, we will have an adequate back-up water supply if needed for fire suppression, sanitation, and potable consumption until the dioxane treatment facility is operating and the Water Treatment Plant has resumed normal operations.

Dioxane Response Team and Future Treatment Update

In June 2015, the City's Dioxane Response Team was created, consisting of Craig Schlichting, P.E.-Director of Community Assets and Development; Scott Boller-Public Works Superintendent; Jesse Hartman-Public Works Water Supervisor; Barr Engineering, our long-time water consultants; Fredrikson & Byron, our special environmental litigation advisors; and myself. In that same month, the Response Team reviewed leading technologies used to remove dioxane from drinking water and visited dioxane removal facilities in Tucson, Arizona, and Air Force Plant 44, also in Tucson.

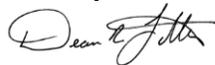
Barr Engineering developed a technology screening and treatability study work plan for evaluating potential dioxane treatment systems, including the technologies being used in Arizona. Two technologies emerged from this process, each of which has been demonstrated to effectively reduce dioxane levels to below the most conservative health risk limits, while also treating a volume of water that can meet or exceed New Brighton's demand.

In August 2015, the City Council heard a presentation from the Dioxane Response Team. The leading dioxane treatment technologies were described, having been vetted on criteria such as effectiveness, availability, and reliability. Ultimately, at its August 11, 2015 meeting, the City Council approved retaining Barr Engineering to construct and operate pilot testing equipment of the two leading technologies. From August to November 2015, Barr and City staff acquired and installed equipment to pilot test the two dioxane treatment systems. In November 2015, Barr Engineering began the pilot test, with the expectation of having results in April/May 2016. These results will guide the selection of the preferred treatment technology. Once this decision is made, Barr will prepare plans and specifications for construction of an addition to our Water Treatment Plant that will treat our drinking water to a level so New Brighton's system meets the strictest standards in the United States. The Summer/Fall of 2018 is the City's anticipated time frame for bringing the new technology online.

The City is committed to keeping you informed about our progress on addressing the dioxane issue. This letter is another effort to meet that goal. Look for another letter from me in the spring of 2016. We are optimistic that we are on the right track to implementing a treatment technology that will provide you with safe drinking water.

Thank you for your continuing support and understanding as we continue our work to confront this new water challenge.

Sincerely,



Dean R. Lotter
New Brighton City Manager