

PUBLIC NOTICE

The James Fork Regional Water District is a public water system subject to regulation under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Those regulations require the notification of customers whenever a violation occurs and is the basis for this notice.

The annual average of quarterly samples of the level of total Trihalomethanes, a disinfection by product, in the water exceeded the maximum contaminant level of 80 parts per billion, for the period from January 2016 to March 2016. The average level in the water for Scott County was 82 ppb.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets national standards for drinking water and has established the maximum level of Total Trihalomethanes at 80 micrograms per liter. Trihalomethanes are a group of by-product chemicals which are formed by the use of chlorine in the treatment of drinking water. Disinfectants, such as chlorine, react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure.

Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with liver, kidneys or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. EPA has set standards to limit exposure to trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and other DBPs.

The Arkansas Department of Health has advised the water system that there is no immediate health risk from consuming the water. Failure to meet this standard does not mean that the water is unsafe or that alternate sources of water should be used. The water system has lowered the chlorine feed level to the affected site. This should solve the problem.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, contact the water system at 479-996-4296 or the Engineering Section of the Department of Health at 501-661-2623.

Information on drinking water can be obtained from the Engineering Section at 501-661-2623 and on the health effects of Trihalomethanes from the Epidemiology Section at 501-661-2796.