

DISINFECTANT CONVERSION FOR DRINKING WATER SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2015

General Instructions

CONTACT(S), PHONE NUMBERS, BUSINESS HOURS

Water systems include the City of Port Lavaca, the Port O'Connor Improvement District, the GBRA Calhoun County Rural Water System, the GBRA Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant, and the LaSalle WCID. Responsible officials include Darren Gurley, Public Works Director and Oscar Pena, Utilities Supervisor-- City of Pt Lavaca; also Victor Leach, Manager-- Port O'Connor Improvement District; also Stephanie Shelly, Chief Operator and Don Koble, Chief Operator --representing the GBRA Water Treatment Plant and the Calhoun County Rural Water System, respectively; and Sandra Witte, counsel for LaSalle WCID.

Please provide / verify a contact phone number:

City of Port Lavaca 361-552-3347
Calhoun Co. Rural Water 361-552-9751
Water Treatment Plant 361-552-9751
Port O'Connor 361-983-2652

PROCEDURE FOR CONVERSIONS

Timing — start date, duration, approx end date.

The scheduled start date is Monday August 24, 2015. Duration will be approximately 19 days. End of summer usage is desirable and Labor Day will be beneficial in this regard. It is assumed that all parties are familiar with the procedure which is recommended by TCEQ. Its purpose is to reduce the presence of free ammonia in the water distribution systems, and is normally done on a once per year basis.

Please check with your contract sampler for any scheduled testing that might be compromised by the change in disinfectants (Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes).

Combined to free chlorine residual (storage followed by distribution)

GBRA will introduce chlorinated water into our ground storage (clearwell). At such time as the stored water indicates the conversion to chlorinated water has occurred, the new water will begin its "push" into the distribution systems. This water column should move the "old" chloraminated water ahead of it with a minimum of mixing. Mixing is to be minimized because the different types of residuals tend to cancel out or reduce the disinfectant, at least as indicated by standard testing. Storage at the plant and in the distribution systems should be closely monitored throughout the project to insure that any desired lowering of elevated or ground storage is staged / staggered in a coordinated manner to maximize fire protection.

Flushing and customer usage (intermediate phase)

Flushing will be employed by the distribution managers as deemed necessary to move the water through their systems.

Free chlorine back to combined residual (storage followed by distribution)

This is essentially a reversal of the initial phase.

MONITORING DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS

What to expect — change in break point and back again

A drop in residuals in the distribution systems may be an indicator of mixing as the residual will “stall” somewhere along the classic break point curve until the new water overwhelms the old. This could happen in both the initial conversion to free chlorine, and the later reversion to combined chloramines. Controlled flushing is recommended to reduce the problem, should it occur. Testing on a frequent basis will pinpoint the issue. GBRA will test its rural areas, which should be a good indicator that the conversion (and subsequent reversion) have been accomplished. If residuals do drop, and it is clearly due to mixing and not to a loss of pressure or breaks, it does not automatically mean that the water is unsafe for consumption, but it does indicate the lack of a disinfectant reserve and a probable need to flush.

FLUSHING OF WATER COLUMN

Usage, aided by flushing

As discussed.

NOTICE

TCEQ (completed or pending)

Completed.

Retail customers — Notify through the Port Lavaca Wave, the Port O’Connor Dolphin Talk (by public affairs dept GBRA Seguin office) and a billing message on the monthly customer bill (by GBRA Port Lavaca office).

In process and publication pending.

DIALYSIS

Dialysis patients — Known (DaVita)

Various forms of potable water disinfectants may require special handling by dialysis treatment centers. Port Lavaca Dialysis, (DaVita), 361-552-3800 and fax # 361-552-8703 serves this area. The contacts are:

*Steve Martin, Biomedical Specialist on call – 361-935-0060 (primary number)
Facility Administrator 361-552-3800 (secondary number)
Area Biomedical Supervisor 361-232-9953 (secondary number)*

GBRA has notified DaVita, in accordance with past practice. Each system is invited to check with DaVita if they have questions or need more information.

Dialysis- possible unknowns

To our knowledge, there are no known dialysis patients utilizing home treatment. Such home visits are no longer necessary, due to the establishment of the unit at Memorial Medical. However, each system is encouraged to check with DaVita to insure this assumption is correct.

OTHER ISSUES

Byproducts testing protocol (THMs, haloacetic acids)

The timing for quarterly sampling by TCEQ for byproducts testing is not expected to conflict with this project, which should be complete before the next testing round. Please confirm with your contract sampler or TCEQ.

CONSUMER CONCERNS

Some change in taste or palatability of the water is to be expected and might result in some questions from consumers. This concern will be addressed in the news releases.

By: _____
Bryan Serold,
GBRA Operations Manager, Lower Basin

cc: GBRA, Port Lavaca, Port O'Connor, Calhoun Rural Water, LaSalle WCID #1 (via email)