

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

### **Sequoyah Co. RWD #4 Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Above Drinking Water Standards**

*Testing results we received for Fourth quarter 2016 through Third quarter 2017, First quarter 2017 through Fourth quarter 2017, and Second quarter 2017 through First quarter 2018 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes. The standard or MCL for total trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/l. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of total trihalomethanes averaged at our system's locations was 0.084 mg/L, 0.090 mg/L and 0.095 mg/L.*

**What should I do?** *There is nothing you need to do unless you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant or are elderly. These people may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. **There is no immediate health risk to the public and your water is safe to drink. There is no need to use bottled water.***

**What does this mean?** *This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

#### **What happened? What is being done? When will the violation be resolved?**

*For half of the last 12 month cycle, the water we purchased from the City of Sallisaw was already over or near over the maximum contaminant level for TTHMs. We will monitor this situation more closely in the future and perform more line flushing as needed. The City of Sallisaw is making operational modifications at their treatment plant and should be compliant in all areas within the next few months. Our TTHM levels are back below the maximum contaminant level now and we will do everything in our power to keep them there.*

For further information contact: Frank Rogers – District Manager or Traci Apple – Office Manager  
Office: 461426 East 1140 Road, Sallisaw, OK, 74955  
Phone: 918-774-9869  
Website: [www.sequoyahrwd4.com](http://www.sequoyahrwd4.com)

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice (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 by **Sequoyah Co. RWD #4** PWSID#: OK3006809 NOV #: P-3006809-18-1

Date Distributed: **May 4, 2018**

City of Sallisaw  
115 East Choctaw, Sallisaw OK 74955  
918-775-6241  
PWSID No. OK 1020206  
[ddavis@sallisawok.org](mailto:ddavis@sallisawok.org)

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### Notice of Violation

January 26, 2018

As required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, this notice is sent to inform the public that the City of Sallisaw is in violation of newly imposed water quality standards as established by the federal government. Note that according to the information directly from both EPA and ODEQ there is **NO IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK TO THE PUBLIC** and your water is still safe to drink.

Effective January 1, 2005, more stringent water standards were imposed on communities under 10,000 in population. Thus, this violation is merely the result of these new standards **ONLY** and should not be construed to mean that your water quality has declined in any way. Currently, water samples are being studied and evaluated by HarChem Water Services to determine the most prudent and feasible treatment process that will bring us into compliance with these standards. According to the Oklahoma Municipal Utilities Providers (OMUP) an estimated 70% of small municipal and rural water providers throughout Oklahoma and the nation are also out of compliance.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The violation results are from new standards dealing with a chemical compound that is a by-product of chlorination disinfectant process. The compound, trihalomethane (THM's) is formed when chlorine that is used to kill disease causing organisms reacts with dissolved organics in raw water. Animal studies have shown that ingestion of high levels of this compound, over a lifetime of exposure, may increase the risk of cancer. The following web site includes this and additional information. [www.EPA.GOV/safewater](http://www.EPA.GOV/safewater).

While our results are continuing to improve, our latest results showed the average levels of trihalomethane (THM's) from January 2017 to December 2017 was 0.083 mg/l. This exceeds the standard by 0.003 mg/l or 3.75%.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

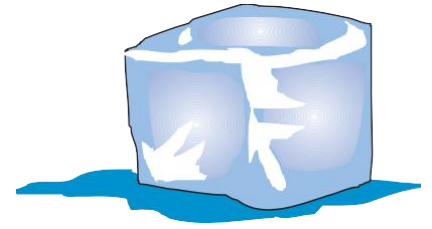
The City of Sallisaw's Corrective Action Plan was prepared by the engineering firm of Neel, Harvell and Associates and HarChem Water Services. The plan involves operational modifications at the treatment plant. We hope to be compliant in all areas of EPA regulations within the next few months. Quarterly notices will be sent out to update the public on this issue.

For more information contact: The City of Sallisaw manager, Jarod Vinson. 918-775-6241 115 East Choctaw, Sallisaw OK 74955.

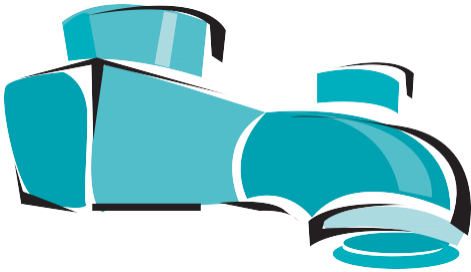
Again, please be advised that **THERE IS NO EMINENT HEALTH RISK.**

Jarod Vinson City of Sallisaw  
Water Treatment Plant Superintendent January 26, 2018

# WATER



## Trihalomethane (THM) fact sheet



Chlorination has made the U. S. water supply safe from illness produced by bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Fortunately,

chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated risks of deadly waterborne diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, and dysentery. However, the chlorination process has also produced byproducts. These disinfection byproducts include a group of chemicals known as Trihalomethanes (THMs). THMs include four chemicals: chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated public water systems check for THMs on a regular basis and that the level of THMs in the water should be less than 80 parts per billion (ppb). This is a change for THMs in drinking water; previously the maximum allowable amount was 100 ppb.

Because EPA lowered the amount of THMs allowable in water, many towns in Oklahoma that did not previously have a problem meeting the old standard now find themselves in violation of the new standard. This violation requires that the towns both notify the public that the level of THMs in their water exceeds the new level and take steps to lower the THMs in the water.

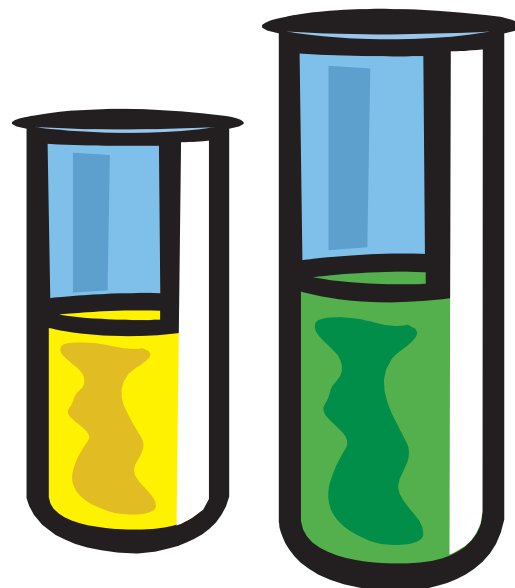
EPA has set standards for THMs in water because there is a slight possibility of an increased risk of bladder or colorectal cancer over a lifetime of drinking water with THMs above 80 parts per billion. EPA estimates drinking 2 liters of water containing 100 ppb THMs every day for 70 years could result in 3 extra cases of cancer for every 10,000 people. The slight risk of increased cancer occurs only after decades of drinking water with elevated THMs.

There is no immediate risk from the water with THMs

above 80 ppb. THMs do not pose a high health risk compared to waterborne diseases, but they are among important water quality issues faced by public water supply systems.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working to help towns that exceed the EPA standard for THMs. There are several ways to reduce THMs in drinking water including changing the disinfection process or filtration. Every solution does involve some cost and time to implement. Typically DEQ enters into a Consent Order with the community that lays out activities and timelines for lowering the THM levels. The community must continue to sample for THMs while the problem is being corrected.

Citizens have the right to know about the quality of their drinking water. They should be aware of problems that may cause a concern for an immediate health problem, such as fecal bacteria, and also of those problems that are a concern over many decades. DEQ will continue to work with all public water supplies in the state to help them maintain compliance with EPA water quality standards and thus provide their citizens with safe, healthy water to drink.



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