

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

## **Leino Park Water District Has Levels of Trihalomethanes Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is 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.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We monitor Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) quarterly. Trihalomethanes are a disinfection by-product of chlorine. The use of disinfectants, such as chlorine, to kill bacteria and viruses creates byproducts as the chlorine reacts with natural matter in the water.

Our most recent testing results collected on **11/12/2008**, which we received on **12/03/2008**, show that our system exceeds the standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for TTHMs. The standard for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb) and is based upon a running annual arithmetic average of quarterly results. Since a running annual average is the average of test results from four consecutive quarters, we have exceeded the TTHM standard for November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008. The average level of TTHMs for that compliance period was **88 ppb**.

### **What should I do?**

- **You do not need to boil your water or use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

### **What does this mean?**

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing (TTHMs) 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.*

### **What happened? What is being done?**

The Leino Park Water District currently purchases treated water from the City of Fitchburg. We do not add any additional disinfectants, such as chlorine, to the water that would increase the TTHM levels. We are aware that the City of Fitchburg recently made changes with one of their water treatment facilities, which may affect water quality. Fitchburg's change in water treatment went into effect on or about April 1, 2006. We are working closely with the DEP to monitor the resulting water quality and reviewing possible treatment methods for removal of TTHMs.

**For more information, please contact Dave Crumbley at 978-874-2569 or Leino Park Water District, 52 Old Oak Ave., Westminster, MA 01473.**

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (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.*

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