

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

TOC Removal Requirements Not Met

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Water Works Park Treatment Plant was recently cited for a treatment technique violation for inadequate removal of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). GLWA routinely monitors our source water from the Detroit River for TOC, the amount of carbon found in natural organic compounds. TOC removal is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. Our TOC removal ratio during the third quarter of 2023 was 0.46, less than the standard Safe Drinking Water Act requirement of 1.00.

The TOC levels in source water and treated water are monitored quarterly to measure TOC levels and the removal efficiency of the treatment process. Historically, TOC levels in the source water have been low enough that the determination of TOC removal efficiency has not been necessary. However, in the past year, TOC levels in the Detroit River have increased, triggering removal requirements. Normal treatment processes were not able to meet the TOC removal requirements in the third quarter of 2023.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. This notice is required to be distributed to all customers within 30 days of the violation being identified. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be quickly notified within 24 hours.

TOC has no health effects; however, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

All drinking water standards for disinfection byproducts in the water delivered to our customers have been met. The water is safe for drinking and all other uses, and no alternative water sources are needed.

What is being done?

We are investigating the reason for the increased TOC in our source water and are taking steps to improve the removal efficiency of our treatment process. This will include increased monitoring at our compliance points. We expect to make necessary improvements to prevent future violations. You will be notified if a future violation occurs.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Patrick Williford, GLWA Water Quality Manager
313.926.8127, waterquality@glwater.org

This notice is being sent to you by Great Lakes Water Authority.

CERTIFICATION:

WSSN: 02838

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulations in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Signature: _____ Title: Water Quality Manager, Date Distributed: 12/13/2023