

December 20, 2023



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Why Are You Receiving This Notification?

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) provides treated water to the city of Harper Woods from its Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant.

Recently, in its regular, required Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) monitoring, GLWA found that the level of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in its treated water was slightly above the standards required.

While this violation **does not** represent a treated drinking water quality issue, we are required to make this notification to those communities who receive water from Water Works Park, including Harper Woods.

Is My Water Safe to Drink?

YES! The water delivered by GLWA remains safe for drinking and all other uses. TOC does not have health effects. It is monitored to ensure that appropriate source water treatment techniques are used at all times.

What Is GLWA Doing to Keep My Water Safe?

To ensure that we continue to provide water of the highest quality, GLWA is increasing its monitoring for TOC to monthly (from every three months).

GLWA is also taking all available steps to improve TOC removal to prevent future violations, including reviewing our treatment process to enhance what the Authority is already doing.

GLWA will continue to share additional information as it becomes available.

What Is The Treatment Process Related to Organic Carbon?

Included in the normal treatment processes at Water Works Park is the removal of TOC from its source water in the Detroit River. All organic molecules have carbon in them: TOC is the measure of the concentration of organic carbon in a substance. For water, TOC's are used as one measure of source water quality.

Excessive TOC can lead to the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include compounds that could have health concerns after long exposure and are, therefore, routinely tested. They must not exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) outlined in state and federal regulations. There was no MCL violation in this instance, and again this does not represent a concern for the drinking water.

How Can You Reach GLWA Water Quality Experts to Ask Any Questions?

If you have questions about the information in this public notice, please contact Patrick Williford, GLWA Water Quality Manager, at (313) 926-8127, or email waterquality@glwater.org. This notice is specific to the water treatment process, and not the local distribution systems.