

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Town of Scotia Public Water System Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements (Turbidity)

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water monitoring in January 2016 showed that more than 5 percent of turbidity measurements were over 0.3 NTU turbidity units. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 0.3 NTU turbidity units per month.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil water or take any other corrective actions.** We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

As part of its regular self-monitoring and reporting to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), TOS determined and reported to that agency that in January of this year, our treated water system delivered water to our finished storage tank that did not pass the turbidity standard (cloudiness).

Briefly, upon discovering this turbidity exceedence, Town of Scotia Company worked hard to discover the cause and to fashion a remedy to address the issue. It is important to understand that no emergency was created, and it was never necessary for water users to boil water or take other corrective action. The problem was caused by a combination of unforeseen circumstances, soon identified and addressed, and since, Scotia has not violated turbidity standards.

Nonetheless, as a consequence of the Jan-2016 violation, SWRCB staff has recently issued a *citation* for the non-compliance. The citation and related regulations require important information about the drinking water system and the exceedence be sent to Town of Scotia public water customers. This attachment to the information form is intended to describe what happened and what was done in some detail.

As some water customers may recall, last summer the Town of Scotia water system experienced an upset as a consequence of effluent discharge from the fire suppression overflow from a chip pile fire event at the Scotia Mill. Water flowing off the burning pile was discharged out to the river bar beneath which Scotia water system has its infiltration galleries which collect drinking water for treatment, storage, and distribution. That discharge at the river bar caused a months-long upset to the water system which required the Town of Scotia Company to thoroughly clean its raw and finish water storage tanks, to rehabilitate and replace the media in one of its filter pressure vessels, and to install "blow off" valves so that key locations in the water distribution system could be effectively flushed throughout town to eliminate rust color residue.

Near year's end, after almost a year and a half of idleness, the Scotia Power Plant resumed full operation, resurrecting demand for approximately 450,000 gallons of water per day over and above standard residential and commercial demand levels. The Power Plant has continued to demand extraordinary and sometimes unexpected quantities of water from the Scotia water system, at irregular intervals. This, coupled with an unforeseeable act of vandalism and high raw water turbidity due to heavy rain events, contributed to the turbidity which is the subject of the citation.

About the time the Power Plant resumed operation, a raw water booster pump which is located in the Old Turbine building at the Power Plant was sabotaged by persons unknown. This booster pump is used to increase flow to the treatment plant to meet extra demand. Attempts to repair and reuse the pump mechanism were unsuccessful. Replacement parts proved to be impossible to obtain. That process--from discovery to repair and replacement -- took months. In the meantime, the Power Plant continued to demand quantities of water from the Scotia system at irregular intervals without coordination.

Under normal treated water demand, and when the booster pump at the Power Plant Turbine Building is operating, raw water is injected with coagulant and held in a large storage tank to "settle out" particulates before further treatment. Because the vandalized booster pump was not working, and there was a very high demand from the plant, the water being pumped to the large storage tank (where settling occurs) was moving through the system faster than normal, and therefore, cloudiness was not settling out the way it normally would.

Importantly, at all times, the community's water was filtered, and it was chlorinated. There is no reason to believe that any harmful contaminants were distributed to our water system users.

After these circumstances and their consequences were recognized, TOS devised a simple method to address them: We shut off the flow of water from the raw water settlement tank to the separate flow serving the Power Plant after pre-treatment to allow greater contact and settling time. With adequate contact time and settlement, water heading through filtration and chlorination once again met the appropriate turbidity standards.

Since that time, the booster pump has been replaced. In addition, we have hired engineers and vendors to design systems and install a continuously recording turbidity meter and a continuously recording chlorine analyzer as well as certain alarm and communication equipment, so that instantaneous adjustments can be made in the event of similar circumstances arising in the future. This new instrumentation and these management tools will be installed in the days and weeks to come with the authority and approval of the State Water Resources Control Board Staff.

For more information, please contact Frank Bacik, Town of Scotia at (707) 7645-4131 or PO BOX 245, Scotia CA 95565,

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 public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notice from a public water system the following establishments must provide secondary notification by distributing this notice within 10 days as follows: School must notify employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors). Residential rental property owners or managers, (including nursing homes and care facilities) must notify tenants. Business property owners, manager, or operator must notify employees of businesses located on the property. Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g).

This notice is being sent to you by Town of Scotia Company, LLC regarding its private community water system.

State Water System ID#: 1210010. Date distributed: July 29, 2016.