

## High Nitrate Level In Hiawatha Water Supply

### **Drinking Water Warning**

#### **City of Hiawatha water system has high levels of nitrate**

**THE CITY OF HIAWATHA** has exceeded the state and federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for nitrate (as N) in drinking water. Concentrations of 11.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) were found in a sample collected on August 6, 2014.

**Nitrate above 10 mg/l is considered to be an acute MCL violation.**

#### **What to do?**

- **DO Not GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** Infants below the age of six months who drink the water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.
- Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.
- Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrates in the same way adults can) However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

#### **Source of Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate can vary in drinking water throughout the year. The City of

Hiawatha will let consumers know when the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.

**Corrective Action**

The City of Hiawatha is continuing to test the water and is working to correct the problem. The City is currently working with an engineering firm and investigating funding for a water treatment plant proposal for nitrate removal.

For additional information, please contact Rick Koenig at 785-742 7417 or stop at City Hall at 701 Oregon Street.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Hiawatha, State Water System ID# KS 8500.

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Many Signals Communications