

Commonly asked questions about Hexavalent Chromium

Q

- Is my water safe to drink with Hexavalent Chromium?

A

- The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) still considers anything below 100 parts per billion (ppb) in your drinking water to be acceptable for consumption. The State of California Regional Water Quality Board recently changed their requirements for Hexavalent Chromium levels in drinking water from 50 ppb to 10 ppb. The State of California's language for health concerns as relates to Hexavalent Chromium consumption are - **Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.**
-

Q

- Why is there Chromium in my water? Where does it come from?

A

- The Hexavalent Chromium levels found in your water is most likely due to the erosion of natural deposits occurring in the groundwater aquifer. Hexavalent Chromium can be found in many water wells currently being used for potable water throughout California including many High Desert wells and at varying levels of concentration.

Commonly asked questions about Hexavalent Chromium

Q

- I just found out about this, how have you notified customers?

A

- The Water and Sanitation Division has been proactively notifying our Oak Hills customers about the Hexavalent Chromium in their drinking water since 2001 even though the average levels detected for Hexavalent Chromium in your drinking water have always been well below 50 ppb which the State of California considered acceptable until recently.

From 2001 until 2017, the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) and more recently post cards with web links to those CCR's are mailed to customers Oak Hills annually. These reports containing information and the levels of Hexavalent Chromium detected for that year. While the levels detected from test to test can vary slightly, your overall water quality did not change, the regulation changed. You can find your most recent report here:

<http://www.specialdistricts.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=2637>

Q

- What is being done about this? Don't you have to provide water below the MCL to customers now?

A

- The Division has budgeted for and completed piloting treatment testing options for reduction of the natural occurring Hexavalent Chromium. The new regulation for Hexavalent Chromium was rescinded by the State on September 11, 2017. While the Division anticipates a new MCL will be created, there is currently no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium.

Commonly asked questions about Hexavalent Chromium

Q

- What can I do until then to protect my family?

A

- **Per the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board you do not need to use an alternative water supply.**
- If you are still concerned with the health effects of Hexavalent Chromium at the level found in your drinking water the State recommends that you check with your health provider.



** For additional information please contact our office at: 760-955-9885