

Public Notification

Update

This is not an emergency. You would be notified immediately in the event of an emergency.

Summary

Bountiful City closely monitors water quality in the culinary water system and regularly takes water samples to check for presence of contaminants. During our annual water testing that was collected during 2021. The city discovered an increase in the levels of combined radium (radium-226 and radium-228) in our 17.8 Well at 134 South Davis Boulevard. The elevated levels exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) for combined radium. The EPA annual standard for combined radium is 5 pico curies per liter (pCi/L). The average combined radium levels of the recent tests were 9.7 pCi/L. The Utah Division of Drinking Water was informed about the elevated levels of combined radium and a violation was given on *July 20, 2021*.

There are many naturally occurring minerals and elements in the City's culinary water system. At times, the levels will increase/decrease based upon environmental conditions, including water levels. It is believed the change is due to extreme drought conditions and natural changes in the aquifer at this site.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that exists as one of several isotopes. It is formed when uranium and thorium decay in the environment. Radium is found at low levels in soil, water, rocks, coal, plants, and food.

Some people who drink water containing Radium-226 or Radium-228 more than the MCL over many years might have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What has been done?

Bountiful City Water Department has submitted a plan to blend the water being produced by our 17.8 Well with water purchased from Weber Basin. The planned modifications to the water system operations have been completed according to this plan. That consisted of installing new sections of water main line(s) and upgraded the electrical equipment at our 17.8 Well site. This allows us to manage a proper blend. We have also taken measures to decrease the dependence of this site.

The formalized blending plan that Bountiful City Water submitted to the Division of Drinking Water was approved. The 17.8 Well site was approved for use under a new management plan that will ensure the levels of combined radium will remain under the approved levels set by the EPA.

Bountiful City Water has been working with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to get this plan approved. We will continue to closely monitor the water quality to ensure the public water system is safe for the residents of Bountiful.

What should you do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, you should consult your doctor if you have specific health concerns.

For more information, please contact the Bountiful City Water Department or visit the EPA website.

- 801-298-6180
- Water@bountiful.gov
- www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclide-basics-radium

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

You can do this by posting in a public place.

This notice is being sent to you by

Bountiful City Water Department

Water System ID# UTAH06015

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