

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 202

10-19-09P03:18 RCVD

Klenk

RE: Water Disinfection System and Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions

Dear Customers:

As a water customer of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 202 ("District"), you need to be informed that the water you receive from the District will soon be disinfected using a new system. This letter provides information on this change.

The District is located within the North Harris County Regional Water Authority ("Authority") and the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District ("Subsidence District"). Due to Subsidence District requirements, many water systems in the Authority will eventually find themselves in the position of receiving surface water for some or all of their water needs, while at the same time still relying on their own groundwater production facilities for a portion of their supply. Most groundwater systems currently disinfect their water with chlorine, while surface water systems disinfect with chloramines. Blending of groundwater that has been disinfected with chlorine with surface water that has been disinfected with chloramines can be problematic, and has the potential to raise concerns relating to taste, odor and health problems. Therefore, the Authority has required that before a connection is made between the water system of any municipal utility district ("MUD") and the Authority's surface water transmission system, the MUD must first convert to disinfection by chloramines. Although the District is not yet aware of precisely when it will begin receiving surface water from the Authority, the District is converting its disinfection system at this time in order to be ready when surface water is available.

Given that you will soon start receiving water that is disinfected by chloramines, you need to be aware of the following:

On or about November 1, 2009, the District will change the disinfectant that it uses from chlorine to chloramines (chlorine and ammonia). This change is required for the reasons stated above. In addition, this change is intended to benefit the District's customers by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease.

The change to chloramines can cause problems to persons dependent on dialysis machines. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, the pretreatment scheme used for the dialysis units must include some means, such as charcoal filter, for removing the chloramines prior to November 1, 2009. Dialysis patients should consult their health care providers for complete information as to any necessary precautions or treatment or usage adjustments. Medical facilities in the District should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment.

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