

IMPROVEMENTS IN DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the improvement in water disinfection?

Currently, DWM disinfects the drinking water in three phases. Typically, the City's drinking water is treated with chlorine in all three phases. In an effort to provide the best drinking water possible, DWM is adding sodium permanganate in place of chlorine to the first phase (pre-treatment) of our treatment process.



What are drinking water disinfectants?

Chlorine, sodium permanganate and chloramine are common disinfectants used to disinfect microbial contaminants (like pathogenic bacteria and viruses) in water systems during the drinking water treatment process. Use of disinfectants to treat drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.



Why is the improvement needed?

Use of chlorine to disinfect untreated water results in byproducts also known as Disinfection By-Products (DBPs). By adding sodium permanganate, the City is achieving the same level of disinfection, while lessening the amount of chlorine in the drinking water.



What are disinfection byproducts?

DBPs (trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) form when chlorine and other disinfectants react with natural organic material. Studies have shown that chlorine produces higher levels of DBPs, which may have potential health risks. DWM conducts routine monitoring and testing of DBPs to ensure that the levels are below limits set by the EPA.



When will the improvement occur?

The addition of sodium permanganate will begin on October 5, 2020. During this time, DWM will assess the results to determine if pre-treating with sodium permanganate has reduced the DBPs.



Will I notice changes in the taste or smell of my water?

No, you should not notice a change in the taste, color or smell of your water. If you have any concerns, please contact Public Information Officer, Kinesia Cato at 404-546-3226 or kcato@atlantaga.gov.



Will the water quality be regularly tested during this period?

Yes. DWM will continue hourly sampling and testing to ensure the drinking water remains safe throughout the City in accordance with EPA regulations.



How does this change support DWM's Strategic Priorities?

DWM is committed to implementing practices that benefit public health and environmental Compliance while being committed to improving Service Delivery by keeping customers informed.