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May 7, 2019

Dear Ramsey resident,

The City's water supply is regularly tested by the Minnesota Department of Health. This year, the results showed that some of the City's wells have manganese levels above the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) guidelines.

Issue:

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in rocks and soil and is usually present in Minnesota ground and surface water. Your body needs some manganese to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful.

The Minnesota Department of Health's guidelines state that consuming water with manganese levels above 100 parts per billion (ppb) may lead to learning and behavior problems in formula-fed infants 12 months or younger.

The MDH guidelines also stipulate that children and adults that consume water with manganese levels higher than 300 parts per billion (ppb) may notice memory, attention, and motor skill deficiencies if consumed for an extended period of time.

The City has eight wells that are regularly tested for manganese. This year, two of the City's eight wells tested above MDH safe consumption guidelines for children and adults at 320 ppb and 371 ppb. Two more tested above the recommended guidelines for bottle-fed infants (100 ppb) at 229 ppb and 223 ppb.

If you consume City water, MDH recommends considering home water treatment or bottled water for drinking, cooking and preparing infant formula.

Solution:

The Ramsey City Council is diligently working on short-, mid-, and long-term plans to address the safety of City drinking water.

Beginning immediately, the City began pumping water from the wells lowest in manganese. However, these wells test highest in Iron. Iron is safe to consume, but may cause your water to appear brown/orange in color.

The City plans to mix the water in its wells to dilute the manganese levels. This may lower the levels below 300 ppb (safe for adult and child consumption). Formula-fed infants should continue to be fed using bottled water.

The Ramsey City Council is in the process of finding a long-term solution to provide safe drinking water to its residents. Several options are being considered. Some of which include:

- Constructing a water treatment plant
- Drilling new wells
- Filtration
- Establish pipe connection to a neighboring City and purchase water from its system
- Hire a consultant to make a recommendation

What can I do?

There are several things you can do to filter manganese out of your drinking water. Certain types of home water treatment units remove or reduce manganese. Visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website: www.health.state.mn.us and search *Home Water Treatment* for details.

If you already have a home water treatment device that removes or reduces manganese, you may want to test the water levels coming from your tap. If you do not have a home water treatment device that removes or reduces manganese, you may want to consider installing one or using bottled water that is labeled as distilled or purified for drinking, cooking and preparing infant formula.

If you have your own well, you may want to test your drinking water for manganese, especially if infants drink your tap water. Homeowners with private wells are responsible for having their wells tested. Learn more on the Minnesota Department of Health's website: www.health.state.mn.us and search *Owner's Guide to Wells*. The Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services (ACCHES) Department accepts water samples. Free test kits are available at Ramsey City Hall, however, ACCHES will charge a lab fee of \$30 at the time of processing. For questions, contact ACCHES at 763-324-4260.

For more information, visit our website at: www.cityoframsey.com or call City Administrator Kurt Ulrich at 763-433-9845 or Utilities Supervisor John Nelson at 763-433-9861.

City of Ramsey Well Testing Results from Minnesota Department of Health

City	Location	Element	Result	Unit	Lab
Ramsey	Well #1	Manganese	320	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #3	Manganese	229	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #4	Manganese	371	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #5	Manganese	21.8	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #6	Manganese	22.6	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #7	Manganese	51.5	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory
Ramsey	Well #8	Manganese	223	ppb	Minnesota Department of Health--Env. Laboratory

* Well #2 is exclusively used for irrigation