

STOP - DO NOT THROW AWAY BEFORE READING – THIS IS IMPORTANT WATER INFORMATION

On or after Monday, June 14, 2010, Harris County MUD District #18 will be changing the disinfectant that we use in our water system from chlorine to chloramines. This change is intended to benefit our customers by reducing the levels of disinfection byproducts in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease. The Regional Water Authority hasn't fixed the exact date yet so we can't say for sure when it will happen.

However, **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 a charcoal filter, for removing the chloramine prior to this date. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment. The North Harris County Regional Water Authority, NHCRWA, recommends that you contact your doctor or the dialysis equipment provider for the proper pretreatment methods.

In addition, **chloraminated water may be toxic to fish.** If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters that you are using are designed for use with water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you use for the fish tank. The NHCRWA recommends asking a pet store for the proper treatment.

This change from chlorine to chloramines is mandated by the NHCRWA as we transition from well to surface water by 2010 for our area. We encourage you to find out more information at <http://www.nhcrwa.com/>, the Authority's web site.

Surface water conversion has been mandated by the State to reduce subsidence in and around the Houston / Galveston area and if a water district doesn't comply, it is subject to fines & penalties of up to \$3.50/ thousand of total water use.

Chloramines have safely been used in Texas for decades and most big cities, including Houston, use this process. With proper precautions, as outlined above, there should not be any issues with the conversion in our districts. There are no known or anticipated adverse health effects from drinking water disinfected with chloramines.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Board of Directors

HC MUD #18