IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Deferral Renewal Issued for 1,4-Dioxane to Liberty New York Water
Merrick Operations District

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical 1,4-Dioxane in your drinking water above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane. The MCLs are set well below levels known to cause health effects in animal studies. Therefore, consuming water with 1,4-dioxane at the level detected does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

The Liberty New York Water Merrick Operations District has submitted, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has issued, a deferral to Liberty. When a public water system is issued a deferral, the water system agrees to a schedule for corrective action and compliance with the new MCLs. In exchange, the Department agrees to defer enforcement actions, such as assessing fines, if the water system is meeting the established deadlines. We are required to update the Department and the Nassau County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the agreed upon deadlines, the Department can resume enforcement.

What are the health effects of 1,4-dioxane?

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused liver cancer in animals exposed at high levels throughout their lifetime. Other types of cancer have also been reported, although less consistently than liver cancer. There is no evidence of 1,4-dioxane cancer effects in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers 1,4-dioxane a likely human carcinogen based upon studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of 1,4-dioxane detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below 1,4-dioxane exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about 1,4-Dioxane in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for 1,4-dioxane. If found above the MCLs, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to remove these contaminants?

Liberty New York Water is in the process of finalizing the contract for the construction of an advanced oxidation process (AOP) facility at its Seamans Neck Road Wells 3A and

4 facility. Iron Removal Facility (IRF) improvements are also being implemented at this well station, which are required in order for AOP treatment to be implemented. Regulatory review of two (2) booster pumping facilities needed to satisfy pressure requirements in the Seamans Neck Road vicinity is underway.

Liberty New York Water will operate the impacted wells in the Merrick Operations District in a last on first off sequence to the greatest extent practicable to minimize exposure to 1,4-Dioxane. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible. The deferral is effective until August 25, 2023.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Liberty New York Water at (877) 426-6999 or 60 Brooklyn Avenue, Merrick, NY 11566. You can also contact the Nassau County Health Department at (516) 227-9697.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID# NY2902840
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