

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monthly Total Organic Carbon Removal Requirements Not Being Met by the City of Las Vegas Water System

Our water system recently violated a drinking water regulation. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We monitor monthly for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal and maintain a running annual average (RAA) of the results. During the third quarter of 2023 the RAA for TOC removal was less than required.

What does this mean?

This ongoing TOC violation is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total organic carbon has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products more than the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.

What is being done?

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is a result of decaying organic matter in the watershed. The nature of the TOC in our waters after the Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire has changed, making it more difficult to remove. Post fire TOC composition and reactivity is more impactful than standard biological degradation. The fire-related impacts to the Gallinas River water quality could continue for many years in the future. This TOC violation may also be reflected in violations related to high Disinfection by Products (DBPs) in the drinking water.

City of Las Vegas Water Treatment Plant Staff and our engineers are working on process improvements including enhanced coagulation to improve the TOC removal to acceptable levels. The options for reducing TOC include improved coagulation & flocculation, granular activated carbon, activated oxidation, ion exchange, reverse osmosis and nanofiltration. The impacts to the water quality in the river could continue for 15 years or more. These continuing TOC violations may also be reflected in continuing THM and HAA5 Disinfection by product violations.

We have already begun working on solutions to manage the TOC and DBP levels and anticipate implementing them within the next twelve (12) months.

For more information, please contact:

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Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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