

PUBLIC NOTICE

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

Tests Show Levels of Radium 226 and Radium 228 Above Drinking Water Standards

The City of Houston routinely monitors the public water supply for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Our water system is currently in violation of the drinking standard for Combined Radium 226+228. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 5.4 pCi/L for combined radium 226+228. The annual average of the 2013 readings for the City of Houston is 6.1 pCi/L for Well #1 and 7.3 pCi/L for Well #3. Prior to 2013, the readings were below the MCL.

Radium 226 and radium 228 occur naturally within the groundwater. Some people who drink water containing radium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

This is not an emergency. You do not need an alternative source of water, such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Home water treatment units are available to reduce radium 226 and radium 228, which include water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation. It is recommended that these home water treatment units be certified to ensure radium removal. The use of carbon filters is not recommended for the removal of radium, as radium may accumulate in the filter over time.

The City of Houston is exploring methods to reduce the level of radium 226 and radium 228, which may include an alternative water source or water treatment. You will be informed when the levels are reduced and meet the standard.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/radium.pdf>, call City Hall at 507-896-4033, or email houstonplanning@acegroup.cc