

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
City of Rawlins Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

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

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples for the month of **May 2021** showed **7 %** of turbidity measurements were over **1.0 NTU** (turbidity units), with a maximum turbidity of **1.0 NTU**. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed **1.0 NTU** per month for our alternative filtration system. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are **0.15 NTU** turbidity units.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1(800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What was done?

- We began using water from Peaking reservoir due to increased early demands and decreased spring flows.
- Peaking reservoir inverted, meaning the water from the bottom came to the top, and increased turbidities into the plant.
- This water requires significantly more treatment and, as a result our filters have been pushed to their limits.
- We treated the reservoir to reduce algae and shrimp populations. After treatment, Peaking reservoir had to rest for a minimum of two weeks.
- We switched to Atlantic Rim reservoir which was not as affected by the drought and therefore had less algae.
- We have increased the chlorine residual to 2.5-3 mg/l.
- Due to the increased loading on our filters, shortened filter run times of 3.5-4 hours vs. 900 hours, we have changed to 24-hour staff with near-constant cleaning of filters during this time of higher turbidity and high demand.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by **City of Rawlins**

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