

INFORMATION ABOUT BAKER AREA PUBLIC WATER

Hardy County Public Service District

Baker Water System – PWS ID# WV3301613

This information is being provided as a public service to address any concerns regarding the water quality of public water in Baker. We routinely monitor the water system in Baker in compliance with state and federal requirements. Through monitoring, it has been discovered that the Baker water system has higher than allowable levels of disinfection by-products in the water supply. Although this is not an emergency, we want to be sure you understand what happened, what you should do and what we are doing to correct the situation.

What happened?

The Baker water system has tested over the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, more commonly referred to as disinfection by-products or DBP's. DBP's are by-products that occur when chlorine is added to the water and reacts with organic matter from the water source. Our water source is the Parker Hollow Impoundment, which has significant organic matter levels. All public water systems are required by state and federal law to disinfect source water before it can be distributed for consumption. When the organic matter from the Parker Hollow Impoundment is dosed with chlorine for disinfection, the DBP's are formed and are then present in the water supply. The health risks of treated water containing DBP's are minimal compared to the health risks of water borne diseases in untreated water. It should also be noted that inhalation and/or dermal absorption in the shower account for more exposure to DBP's than actually drinking the water.

The following information on DBP's was developed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and is to be shared with the public to address questions you may have:

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottles) water supply. However, if you have any specific health concerns, it is recommended that you consult with your doctor.

What does this mean?

The presence of DBP's is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some* people who drink water containing an amount in excess of the MCL over many years *may* have an increased risk of getting certain types of cancer.

What is being done?

The Hardy County Public Service District is working on a project to install an ion exchange organics removal system at the Baker water plant. Once operational, the system is expected to allow the water plant to remove a much larger portion of organic matter in the source water coming from the Parker Hollow Impoundment. With less organic matter present, the level of DBP's formed when chlorine is added should be reduced to allowable levels. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in late 2018.

If you have further questions or concerns or for more information, please contact Logan Moyers, General Manager at (304) 530-3048 or the Hardy County Public Service District, Post Office Box 900, Moorefield, West Virginia 26836.