



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER TOC Removal Requirements Not Met

The City of Mount Clemens Water Treatment Plant was recently cited for a treatment technique violation for inadequate removal of Total Organic Carbon (TOC). TOC is the amount of carbon found in natural organic compounds and Mount Clemens routinely monitors our source water from Lake St. Clair for TOC. TOC removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. Our running annual average TOC removal ratio during the 4th quarter of 2024 was 0.984, less than the standard Safe Drinking Water Act requirement of 1.00.

The TOC levels in source water and treated water are monitored quarterly to measure TOC levels and the removal efficiency of the treatment process. Historically, TOC levels in the source water have been low enough that the determination of TOC removal efficiency has not been necessary. However, in the past year, source water TOC levels have increased, triggering removal requirements. The calculated removal ratio average in the fourth quarter of 2024 is below the requirement. The laboratory used by the City for TOC analysis indicated the lower removal ratio may have been due to issues at the laboratory and they were reviewing their procedures.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency, the water is safe to drink and there are no health risks. This notice is required by law to be distributed to all customers within 30 days of the violation being identified. If a situation were to arise where the water was not safe to drink, you will be quickly notified within 24 hours.

TOC has no health effects; however, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of 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.

BE ADVISED, the City monitors the drinking water for these byproducts and all drinking water standards for disinfection byproducts in the water delivered to our customers have been met. The water is safe for drinking and all other uses, and no alternative water sources are needed.



What is being done?

We have contracted with a different laboratory that is better equipped to analyze TOC to try to avoid any invalid results in the future and are taking steps to ensure the removal efficiency of our treatment process meets all drinking water standards. We will be increasing our monitoring frequency to monthly for a period of time, in consultation with the State of Michigan, as a result of this issue. You will be notified if a future violation occurs.

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.

For more information, please contact [586-469-6800 Extension 502](tel:586-469-6800)

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Mount Clemens

