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City addresses tainted water issue

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By Reed Johnson

The City of Dayton has taken steps to clean up its water after releasing a report earlier this month stating that the municipal water supply did not meet federal guidelines.

In a public notice, city officials said that the local water supply in 2015 contained elevated levels of haloacetic acid and trihalomethane, two byproducts of water purification that are always present in drinking water. However, according to the notice the city's water contained levels of those byproducts that only slightly exceeded federal guidelines.

According to the report, the federal maximum level for haloacetic is measured as 60 parts per billion, and the municipal water supply was between 61 and 62 parts per billion. The federal maximum level of trihalomethane is measured as 80 parts per billion, and the local water supply contained between 84 and 87 parts per billion.

The notice states that according to researchers, people who drink water with a significant amount of haloacetic acid in it over many years "have an increased risk of getting cancer."

Likewise, the notice states a similar finding with trihalomethane, claiming that if ingested over several years it could lead to problems with the liver, kidney or central nervous system.


Dayton City Manager Tom Solomon said the problem was fixed as soon as the elevated levels were found and that Dayton water is safe to drink.


"This problem was corrected as soon as we found out about it," Solomon said. "From what I understand, when they would use the water to wash filters, they would run that water back through the plant to clean it, and it was just too much to filter, and that caused those slightly elevated levels."

Solomon said that the city stopped using the tainted water once the elevated levels of haloacetic acid and trihalomethane were discovered.


"It was small increase, but we still wanted to report it," Solomon said. "The water in Dayton is absolutely safe to drink."


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