



## Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association

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May 22, 2017

### **Notice Of Violation Of Maximum Contaminant Level For Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)**

In March of 2017, USCDWUA collected a regular quarterly sample for disinfection by-products (DBP) in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The test results of this sample showed that the concentration of HAA5 in the water was 61.38 parts per billion (PPB), as an average of four quarterly samples. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) set by regulation is 60 PPB. As a result, USCDWUA received a written Notice of Violation from Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE).

CDPHE has published the following health advisory: "Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer." USCDWUA is not aware of any specific group of people who would likely be affected more than the general population.

USCDWUA does not believe it is necessary for you to switch to an alternate source of drinking water, although that is the prerogative of each person. There is no action that you need to take, i.e. boiling that would affect the concentration of HAA5. It is possible that certain household filters could lessen the concentration, but beware of overstated claims by retailers.

HAA5 forms by the reaction of chlorine disinfectant with naturally occurring organic compounds in the water. There are five species of haloacetic acids that may form. The concentration expressed is the sum total of all five. In the USCDWUA system HAA5 formation is a result of raw water quality at certain times of the year, combined with a large distribution system that allows a lot of time for these reactions to take place. Recently, a new regulation was adopted by CDPHE which mandates a minimum disinfectant level of 0.2 parts per million in all parts of the distribution system. This replaces the prior rule allowing a "detectable level," in other words a measurable trace. This has required our system to maintain a higher concentration of chlorine, which enhances HAA5 formation.

To correct our system's tendency to generate HAA5, and also wishing to have a backup source of water in case of wildfire or other failure of our primary source (Surface Creek), we have commissioned an engineering study to develop ground water (wells or springs) to augment or replace the creek water when necessary. That study is ongoing now, and is expected to be completed this year. Meanwhile, every effort will be taken to reduce HAA5 formation, by treatment with chlorine dioxide, and by avoiding any overdose of chlorine. Also we will increase the frequency of flushing our pipelines to shorten the residence time of the water in those lines.

For further information, you may contact the system manager Dan Hawkins at the address and phone number on the letterhead, also email [danhawkins@uscdwua.com](mailto:danhawkins@uscdwua.com).

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 public places or by distributing copies by hand.

*Dan A. Hawkins*