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Temporary Chlorine Maintenance for Safe Water



The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) assures the public that the processes used to treat and maintain the district's drinking water are safe. NTMWD has been conducting a routine, annual 30-day chlorine maintenance procedure that protects water quality year-round. The maintenance, which will conclude March 26, eliminates bacteria and viruses in the water supply and pipes.

"This is a safe and scientifically proven method to ensure that treated water remains safe as it moves throughout the pipes that distribute water to the local communities we serve," said Mike Rickman, Deputy Director

of Operations and Maintenance at NTMWD.

NTMWD's service area is very large – it spans 2,220 square miles in 10 counties. Because of the very long distances water must travel, it is critical that all the pipes that carry water from our treatment plants to homes are clean and virus-free.

During the maintenance period, residents may experience a stronger smell of chlorine. However, NTMWD has not increased the amount of chlorine in the water. The only change during this temporary maintenance period has been the discontinuation of ammonia while maintaining all other treatment processes. An odor may be more noticeable due to the lack of ammonia.

Throughout this procedure and every day of treatment, NTMWD collects and processes hundreds of samples each day to share in online water quality reports and with regulatory agencies. Data from samples taken weekly show that levels of disinfection byproducts are within all regulatory requirements.

California environmental activist Erin Brockovich has raised questions about the use of routine chlorine maintenance being done by water systems, including NTMWD, Austin, Houston and Tyler. NTMWD has been working to clarify this information with its member cities, through local news media and social media.

“Erin Brockovich has not contacted anyone at the District, is not familiar with our treatment, maintenance, and testing process, yet has made numerous false and misleading allegations,” said Tom Kula, NTMWD Executive Director. “We will continue to work with our cities to get the facts out and to assure the public that our water is safe. The chlorine maintenance is a proactive measure to protect water quality.”

To learn more about this routine maintenance and other aspects of our treatment process, you can find more in our response to [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

North Texas Municipal Water District | 972-442-5405 | www.ntmwd.com

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