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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Continuation of the Tetrachloroethylene Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) at Allendale Water Department

The Allendale Water Department has a treatment process to remove tetrachloroethylene from the drinking water at the New Street Treatment Plant. On a quarterly basis, SUEZ collects and analyzes water samples at the New Street Treatment Plant for tetrachloroethylene, a type of volatile organic compound (VOC). Compliance with the tetrachloroethylene MCL is based on a quarterly, running annual average, which was calculated at 1.22 parts per billion (ppb) for the compliance samples collected from 7/10/19 through 7/2/2020. This is within the regulatory limit of 1 ppb. **All samples collected since a November 2019 repair to the New Street Treatment plant have been non-detect for tetrachloroethylene.**

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what SUEZ is continuing to do to correct this situation. Please note that this issue is unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the Allendale Water Department and SUEZ are continuing to work in the lab, at the treatment plants and in the field during the health crisis to ensure the water system is operating properly.

#### What happened?

During two sampling events, 7/10/2019 and 10/9/2019, individual samples had elevated levels, meaning our treatment system failed to consistently remove tetrachloroethylene from the drinking water. Allendale's water system uses diffused aeration (i.e. blowers) to inject air bubbles into water tanks to remove VOCs. During operation at the New Street Treatment Plant, the connections inside the treatment device opened, which led to the failure of the unit and the MCL violation. **This treatment equipment has been repaired and prior to putting the treatment system back on line, a special purpose sample was collected on 11/25/2019 at the treatment system and was non-detect for tetrachloroethylene. Required compliance samples collected on 1/10/2020, 4/2/2020 and 07/02/2020 for tetrachloroethylene were also non-detect, demonstrating the effectiveness of the remedial measures taken to date.**

The Allendale Water Department previously notified you of the Treatment Technique Violation and tetrachloroethylene MCL Violation on 12/02/2019 and sent a Continuation Notification on 2/24/2020 and 5/13/2020. This letter is a required update.

**Although the current running annual average is below the MCL, we will not return to compliance until our running annual average is below the MCL for two consecutive quarters. We anticipate this will take place in the 4th quarter of 2020.**

#### What does this mean?

Tetrachloroethylene, also known as tetrachloroethene, perchloroethylene, perchlor, PCE, and perc, is a chemical manufactured for use in the dry cleaning, metal degreasing and aerospace industry, and is an environmental pollutant. It is a colorless, nonflammable liquid that easily evaporates from water to air with



multiple routes of exposure, including direct ingestion of contaminated water and inhalation during bathing.

Some people who drink water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their liver, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **What should you do?**

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Tetrachloroethylene can be detected in the body through blood and urine tests; however, it is eliminated from the body very quickly.

### **What is being done?**

SUEZ has completed the following corrective actions:

- The treatment equipment used to remove tetrachloroethylene (i.e. air difusers) was inspected, disassembled, cleaned, and repaired on 11/14/2019.
- Special purpose sampling was conducted at the New Street Treatment Plant on 11/25/2019 to ensure the effectiveness of the repairs to the treatment equipment.
- Additionally on 11/25/2019, SUEZ installed a safety catch so the connections do not open inside the air diffusers.
- Installed new instrumentation in the air diffusers at the New Street Treatment Plant to monitor pressure through the diffuser in real-time.
- Increased the frequency of cleaning/inspection of the air diffusers from annual to semiannual.

For more information, please contact the SUEZ Customer Service Center at 1-855-367-6708 or email us at [suezallendalecustserv@suez.com](mailto:suezallendalecustserv@suez.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 a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

This notice is being sent to you by SUEZ Allendale Operations.

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