

## SEASONAL WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

The MDC would like to assure all customers that despite the limited seasonal taste/odor issue experienced by some customers in West Hartford, Bloomfield and East Hartford, MDC water from the tap is completely safe to drink.

The Metropolitan District (MDC) prepares a Water Quality Report annually which provides a summary of the past year's water quality and includes information on how the MDC collects, treats and delivers high quality drinking water to customers in our service area. This report is mailed to MDC customers annually and also available on our website at the following link:

<https://themdc.org/assets/uploads/files/Water%20Quality/2016%20Water%20Quality%20Report%20Final%20PDF%20Web.pdf>.

The MDC's state-licensed Water Analysis Laboratory, located at the Reservoir 6 water treatment plant in Bloomfield, conducts more than 145,000 physical, chemical and bacteriological tests annually. These tests analyze for over 130 potential water contaminants at the MDC's reservoirs, treatment plants and the 47 state approved sampling sites throughout the 12 town service area. These tests and other analyses conducted at licensed consulting laboratories ensure that the potable water supplied by the MDC meets all State of Connecticut Public Health Code and Federal Environmental Protection Agency standards for water quality.

Each year, as the temperature of the water in the drinking water reservoirs increases due to the warmer weather and rain, a change in water density also occurs, and leads to a slight redistribution of organic compounds that typically reside in the reservoir.

Two of these compounds, Geosmin and Methyl-Isoborneol (MIB), are naturally occurring compounds that have a strong, earthy taste and odor. Certain types of algae and bacteria normally present in the reservoirs and surrounding watershed naturally produce Geosmin and MIB. These compounds are generally always present in drinking water, though not at noticeable levels. At this time of year, however, the presence of Geosmin and MIB may rise above the taste and odor threshold for some individuals. Geosmin, in particular, can be detected by certain individuals at very low levels.

MDC routinely monitors for Geosmin and MIB in the water supply, and takes steps to minimize the impact to taste and odor to our customers, such as monitoring the algal levels (which currently remain low) and adding Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) to absorb any taste and odor compounds in the water. In fact, MDC has been taking measures to mitigate the potential taste and odor issues since April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year (as we do annually around the same time).

The Metropolitan District remains committed to providing our customers with the highest quality potable water through source protection, treatment and compliance monitoring and reporting of analytical results. Additional information regarding MDC's water quality can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://themdc.org/what-we-do/drinking-water/water-quality>.

**Customers having any questions or requiring further clarification, please feel free to contact MDC Department of Laboratory Services Manager Stephen Pratt at 860-278-7850 extension 3901.**

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