

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Misawa Main Base Water System Did Not Comply With Testing Procedures

The water system supplying the Main Base portion of Misawa AB recently failed to comply with required testing. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation. This only involves the water system supplying the Main Base area. Water systems supplying the North Area and Security Hill are not involved.

1. We routinely monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. During the month of July 2012 we did not test the Main Base water for total organic carbon and alkalinity. Organic carbon and alkalinity are not health hazards. However, these may react with the chlorine we add to your drinking water to disinfect it, and produce trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. We routinely monitor for these byproducts of drinking water disinfection. All drinking water samples for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids have been collected in accordance with requirements. All results of samples for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids have been well below limits. There has been no effect on the quality of your drinking water from this missed sampling. Your water remains safe to drink.
2. We also routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. During a recent self-assessment, we identified turbidity monitoring equipment that is not providing accurate numbers. Turbidity has no health effect, however the particles that create turbidity in your drinking water may interfere with disinfection by shielding microbes from chlorine. We routinely monitor the effectiveness of drinking water disinfection by collecting numerous samples for bacteria across the base. None of these samples have detected any bacteria. Your water remains safe to drink.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. Your water remains safe to drink. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified immediately.

Why am I being given this notice?

Although there is no effect to your safety or health, we believe it is important to be frank and honest whenever there is a situation involving your drinking water. This is why we have requirements to provide notification whenever we are not in compliance with drinking water standards.

What is being done?

1. To prevent missed samples in the future, we have looked at how we are tracking our sampling requirements and made some immediate improvements. We had already planned for a review of our sampling program over the next few months, and we will pay particular attention to further improving scheduling during this time. For more information, please contact Maj Allmann at Bioenvironmental Engineering at 226-6010.
2. The turbidity meter will be repaired or replaced. We estimate this will be done by the end of September. Until this work is complete, we will use other water sources and treatment systems to be certain we are providing you with the best quality of water available. Additionally, portable turbidity measuring equipment is being purchased as a backup in case of any future equipment failure. For more information, please contact MSgt Moses at Water/Fuels Maintenance at 226-3223.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or e-mail.