IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
The UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WATER SUPPLY Had Levels of Total trihalomethanes Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received for the 1st quarter of 2005 show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes. The standard for total trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/L. The average level of total trihalomethanes over the last year was 0.081 mg/L.

What should I do?

• You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

Over the last several years water use on campus decreased due to conservation and reductions in the use of potable water for air conditioning. These reductions lengthened water system storage and distribution time. Longer detention times, especially during hot weather, lead to the formation of higher trihalomethane concentrations. Trihalomethanes are a byproduct of the disinfection process that protects our water from pathogenic organisms. Due to a single test during the reporting period, our concentration of trihalomethanes exceeded the standard by the smallest increment that constitutes a violation.

Since that occurrence, we have taken several actions to reduce the amount of trihalomethanes forming in our system. These actions include reduced storage time, increased distribution system flushing and extra testing. These actions have already reduced and verified the concentration of trihalomethanes in our water to levels below the maximum contaminant level.

For more information, please contact Scott Slee or Ken Lloyd at 319 335 5168.

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 mail.

This notice is being sent to you by The University of Iowa Water Plant. PWSID #5225101 Date distributed: 08/18/2005