

Background

What Are THM's?

THM's (trihalomethanes) are the result of a reaction between the chlorine used for disinfecting tap water and natural organic matter in the groundwater. THM's tend to increase during the warmer months.

Routine Monitoring

Artesian is required to sample four locations throughout South Bethany and Fenwick quarterly. In September one of these four samples exceeded the regulations. This triggered a public notice and unfortunately the letter mailed was mandatory EPA language which Artesian was not allowed to alter.

Follow Up Samples

As soon as the third party lab notified Artesian of the elevated sample, our Water Quality department collected and expedited confirmation samples which came back saying the levels are back to normal and within compliance. All additional samples since have been acceptable levels and customers would be notified if levels were elevated again.

Next Steps

Tank Treatment

Last year Artesian piloted a storage tank aeration/mixing treatment to remove THM's. This pilot was successful and Artesian will be installing this treatment at the South Bethany plant by June 2020.

New Plant

In the winter, when demand is lower, Artesian is able to only run the Bayville plant which has better water quality. Artesian is currently planning the design for a new plant in Dagsboro. This plant will be connected to the South Bethany system which will overall improve water quality and system reliability.

Continued Piloting

Artesian is doing additional testing to determine if we can remove the TOC in the water at South Bethany. We are going to bench test ozone and if it looks promising we will run a pilot test.

Enhanced Communication

All of these plans were in place before the high reading in September since Artesian is consistently trying to improve the system. Artesian plans to attend multiple Town Meetings every year and our Water Quality department is available for any additional questions at (302) 453-6900.