

Raw Water Quality Effects

As you are all aware there were sustained strong northeast winds over the weekend. Due to this storm event, over the course of the last few days we have been receiving water that is much more turbid with a slight odor and higher than normal organic content. We took action before the water arrived in Saginaw to prepare for the type of treatment effort that would be necessary to properly treat the water and maintain high quality drinking water. I'm happy to report that treatment has been very effective and we have continued to produce quality drinking water.

Please pay close attention to your system over the course of the next few days. Although we did not detect any odor on the finished water, odors sometimes show up later in the system even though we have treated for them. Normally odors will be most noticeable in dead end areas. If you receive any complaints, please react accordingly.

We have maintained our finished water free chlorine residual between 1.2 ppm and 1.6 ppm. This level is slightly elevated for this time of year but due to the highly turbid water we were treating, we wanted to make sure that any additional chlorine demand would not negatively impact distribution system residuals. I recommend you monitor your system residuals and if you observe low residuals, act accordingly. These efforts could help you with any odor issues as well, so there is a double benefit.

As of yesterday our source water has returned to relatively normal levels. I want to thank my staff for working hard with me to keep the treatment under control. The main thing is that we will all want to monitor our systems over the course of the next few days and react as necessary.

Paul Reinsch
Superintendent City of Saginaw
Water Treatment and Field Operations