

CITY OF WAVERLY WATER SYSTEM TREATMENT

BACKGROUND

In the early 1990's the Environmental Protection Agency made changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act that required all water systems throughout the United States to make sure copper levels in drinking water did not exceed the Copper Action Level. (The Copper Action Level is exceeded if the concentration of copper in more than 10% of the tap water samples that are collected during any monitoring period is greater than 1.30 mg/L).

Once the Copper Action Level was implemented by the E.P.A., in 1999 the City of Waverly began to treat the water using Sodium Hydroxide. The copper levels exceeded the E.P.A. limit due to the water in the aquifers below and around Waverly having a lower pH, meaning the groundwater is naturally more acidic. This lower pH has allowed minute amounts of copper to be taken from piping inside buildings and transferred into the water. By using this treatment technique the copper levels did drop, but we were not able to reach the 1.3 mg/l limit.

NEW TREATMENT TECHNIQUE

In 2010 the City of Waverly hired JEO Consulting Group, Inc. to investigate a new treatment technique, since the previous treatment did not meet the required limits. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, who regulates all water systems in Nebraska and enforces the Safe Drinking Water Act for the E.P.A, has given approval for the City of Waverly to switch to a phosphate base inhibitor treatment, which will also require the use of chlorination.

TREATMENT TIME TABLE

During the past year equipment has been installed at several well sites to bring the new treatment system online. The City of Waverly plans on starting the new water treatment **during the week of September 12, 2011.**

When the new system is implemented, we recommend that businesses and homeowners monitor their gradual changes to the water quality. One consideration is for sensitive plants or animals (i.e. aquariums) that may react to chlorine disinfectant residuals in the water, as the City needs to upgrade the water supply. Overall, the impacts to daily lifestyles should not be significant. If you have water quality needs requiring low to zero chlorine concentrations, many de-chlorination chemicals are available to consumers at places such as home improvement centers, private water service companies and pet supply stores.

For questions about the water treatment changes call the Public Works Department at 402-786-2127.