



CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS

Water and Sewer Division

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SUPERINTENDENT

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Concord Water had Levels of Bromate above Drinking Water Standards

The Town has recently learned that drinking water provided from Nagog Pond contained higher than allowable concentrations of bromate. Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to address this drinking water violation.

Currently drinking water from Nagog Pond is only provided during summer months, and is disinfected with ozone, to ensure that it is safe to drink. Nagog Pond water contains a naturally occurring trace element, bromide, which can react with ozone, a strong oxidizing agent, to form a by-product, bromate. The allowable concentration of bromate in drinking water, *averaged over a year*, is 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L). At the end of the September 2019 monitoring period, the average concentration of bromate from Nagog Pond, over the limited months of its operation, was 0.0108 mg/L. Because bromate is not present in Concord's other water-sources, and because drinking water from Nagog Pond is added to the public water distribution system only during the summer, your actual long term exposure is within allowable limits.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You **do not need to** boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, *some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

What is being done?

The Nagog Pond water supply was shut down for the season in late September 2019, and is not anticipated to come back online until the summer of 2020. Concord Water staff will work prior to seasonal start-up to evaluate existing treatment practices in an effort to reduce bromate. Additionally, Concord Water has been working on the design and permitting of a filtration facility for Nagog Pond for the last several years. While permitting challenges have prevented the project from moving forward as quickly as we would like, we will continue to work diligently towards filtration as a means to continue to provide high quality drinking water to all of our customers.

For more information, please visit www.concordma.gov/bromate or contact Concord Water and Sewer Division at 978-318-3250; 135 Keyes Rd, Concord, MA 01742.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.