



NEWSPLASH

News for Customers of the Erie Water Works

Second Quarter 2019

Keeping Your Water Safe: 2018 Disinfection Requirements Rule

On April 28, 2018 the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) approved a new rule under the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act intended to guard against microbial contamination. The rule known as the Disinfection Requirements Rule (DRR) establishes a new minimum concentration of chlorine that water providers must maintain throughout their water systems.

Prior to the approval of the DRR, water systems were required to maintain a minimum concentration of 0.02 parts per million (ppm) of chlorine throughout their entire system. With the passing of the new rule, all water systems throughout the Commonwealth are required to maintain a minimum concentration of 0.2 ppm of chlorine at all times.

Water systems throughout the Commonwealth were given one year from the DRR's approval date to meet the new standards. To be in compliance by the April 29, 2019 deadline, the Erie Water Works (EWW) has been incre-

mentally increasing its chlorine injection levels at various locations throughout the system. It's possible that additional chlorine injection sites may be necessary to meet the new disinfection requirement. EWW staff has been working closely with PADEP officials to assure EWW remains in compliance as we work to meet the new drinking water standard.

Chlorine levels are not the only hot topic related to the public water supply. A great deal of attention has been given to the lead content in public drinking water. To protect against the leaching of lead and copper from pipes and fixtures into the water, orthophosphate is added to the water before it leaves the treatment plant. This additive adds a protective coating on EWW's water mains, customers private service lines, and household plumbing to aid in preventing the leaching of lead and other metals into the water as it travels through the piping system. The EWW's most recent lead sampling included 58 samples from sites with

the greatest risk of lead leaching. Of those 58 sample sites, 48 samples had "undetectable" lead levels (less than 1 ppb) and five samples had less than 2 ppb. None of the samples approached the established "action level" of 15 ppb. These action limits are set to assure public health and safety and require specific "action" by the water service provider should they be exceeded.



Our customers can rest assured the Erie Water Works is providing you with safe, reliable water service. Turn on your faucet, fill your glass, and drink up with the confidence you deserve when it comes to your drinking water! Erie Water Works delivers it right to your home!

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Please help keep an eye on YOUR water system! Fire hydrants are to be used by emergency personnel and EWW employees **ONLY!** If you notice any suspicious activity or damage to a hydrant please call 870-8087, 24 hours a day!

2018 Water Quality Report Available Online

The EWW 2018 Water Quality Report is now available on our website: "www.eriewater.org/wqr/2018wqr.erie.pdf"

To have a paper copy of the water quality report mailed to your home please call 814-870-8000 ext. 299.

Workzone Safety Tips

We finally made it out of the winter months so that means we're entering construction season! EWW crews and contractors work outside in the elements all year round, but when the weather breaks larger scale projects commence. If you encounter a work zone, please follow these helpful tips to keep everyone safe:

- SLOW DOWN!
- Stay Alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers.
- Maintain a safe distance between vehicles. Don't tailgate.
- Give your full attention to the road. Never text and drive!
- Always buckle up.
- Be patient!

It is illegal to drive around "road closed" signs and through a work zone. Drivers could be subject to fines and the possible suspension of their driving privileges.



We depend on our drinking water supply daily - but where does that water come from?

The EWW raw water supply is obtained exclusively from Lake Erie. We are fortunate to operate two water treatment plants and pumping stations. Both plants are directly connected to a complex network of distribution lines that provide water service to more than 220,000 people in Northwest PA. The Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant on Sommerheim Drive serves as EWW's primary water treatment plant and is equipped with a state-of-the-art ultrafiltration system.

The EWW encourages you to get to know your local water source, so together, we can protect and preserve it. Only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for our economy and the quality of life we enjoy.

Protecting our water source now ensures we have a sustainable drinking water supply in the future.

Spring Water Line Work

Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2019 on the East Lake Road Water Main Replacement Project. This project will replace approximately 6,700 feet of 12" pipe along East Lake Road in Harborcreek Township from Irvine Drive to Bartlett Road with new 16" water main. The existing main was originally installed in the 1960's and has had many breaks over the years. The project was publicly bid in February and has been awarded to Klinginsmith Enterprises, Inc. of Conneaut Lake, PA. Please be aware that some traffic delays may occur but East Lake Road will remain open throughout construction and access to residences and local businesses will be maintained. The project is expected to wrap up in October 2019.

Other water main projects scheduled for 2019 include: East 11th Street from Hess Avenue to Payne Avenue; 500 feet of water main on Bacon Street south of East 10th Street; Glendale Avenue from Cameron Road to June Street; and June Street from Glendale Avenue to Fairmount Parkway. If you come upon one of these worksites please use extreme caution to keep everyone safe!