

MARTIN COUNTY FRESHWATER DISTRICT

Maximum Contaminant Level Violation MCL, SINGLE SAMPLE / NITRATE

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the **Martin County FWSD 1** (TX1590002) that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for nitrate to be 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a single sample and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for nitrate indicates a compliance value in quarter three 2024 of 11mg/L for EP001.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. If your child is under the age of six months, the child **must** be given an alternative water supply for any consumption. Boiling the affected water is **not** an effective treatment for nitrate removal.

Most consumers do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. At this time, the health effects to fetuses of pregnant women are unclear. If you are pregnant, you may also choose to use an alternative source of water for drinking and cooking purposes.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

We have hired Jacob and Martin Engineers to help identify options to remediate Nitrate issues within the water system; we have received FMT Assistance through TCEQ to discuss and evaluate options to address the Nitrate issues.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Steve Poole (District Operator) at (432) 270-5509.

Posted/Delivered on: **9/25/2024**

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