

*** * IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE - PLEASE READ * ***

**SOUTH SANGAMON WATER COMMISSION IS MAKING A CHANGE
IN THE WATER DISINFECTION PROCESS**

The South Sangamon Water Commission (SSWC) will soon be making a change to its water disinfection process. The current disinfection process of chlorination will convert to a **chloramination process**. ***The current implementation schedule to start feeding chloramines into the water system will take place on or about June 15th, 2021.*** This process involves disinfecting our finished water with chlorine but also adding ammonia to convert the chlorine residual to **chloramine** before it is pumped into our distribution system. The change is required by the City of Chatham for SSWC to install an interconnect in the event of an emergency.

It is important to note that **chloramines** have different properties than chlorine. While chlorine will dissipate from drinking water if left standing, exposed to air or if the water is aerated. **Chloramines** will not. Even though **chloramines** are not as effective a disinfection or deactivation treatment, they do remain in the system longer.

After the conversion, one may notice that the water has a different taste or smell.

The general public won't experience any problems with the conversion; however, ***we want to stress that special considerations must be taken for those customers that receive dialysis or have live fish.***

Medical facilities and patients that receive kidney dialysis at home must have pre-treatment steps to remove the chloramines instead of just being able to remove chlorine. Please communicate with your local Public Health Agency to ensure that these facilities follow the required steps.

Individuals or entities that have LIVE fresh or salt water fish, which may include schools, restaurants, fishkeepers and fish markets will have to ensure that they have the appropriate equipment and training to neutralize chloramines.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact Water Plant Manager, Stephen Bivin, at 217-685-6210 or by email at sbivin@sswc.us.

Thank You,

South Sangamon Water Commission