

# INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## City of Sterling Has Levels of Uranium Above Drinking Water Standards

The city's drinking water system has violated a drinking water standard. Although **this is not an emergency**, we are notifying our customers and providing you with information about this exceedance. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results for four (4) consecutive quarters ending on December 31, 2007 showed that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Uranium. The standard for Uranium is 30 micrograms per liter (ug/l). The average level of Uranium in our system over the last year was 43 ug/l.

### What should I do?

**Because of the high levels of Uranium, it is recommended that you use an alternative drinking water supply (e.g., bottled or other source with levels of Uranium known to be below the MCL). If you have specific health concerns consult your doctor.**

### What does this mean?

The effects of exposure to these contaminants are not likely to be acutely apparent. However, some people who drink water containing Uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and Kidney toxicity.

### What happened?

A typical source for Uranium is from erosion of natural deposits. The quality of our water has not changed. What has changed is the Environmental Protection Agency established an MCL for Uranium at 30 micrograms per liter (ug/l). The EPA established the MCL in December 2003 and Colorado drinking water systems completed initial monitoring in 2007. Approximately 45 Colorado public drinking water systems were identified by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as having radionuclide issues.

### What is being done?

The City is presently working with the department in its voluntary CO-RADS program. The City also is working with two engineering firms, Malcolm Pirnie and Arber Associates to evaluate the water supply and to research options to correct this problem and other issues the system is facing including disinfection by products and future needs. The Colorado School of Mines also will become involved through the CO-RADS Project.

It is our goal to deliver the best possible water quality to you, our valued customers, which is economically affordable.

The City would like to tell our customers this matter will be resolved quickly, however this is not the case. It is our goal to put in place the best economically affordable treatment to resolve all the needs of the system – and that could easily take 1-4 years.

Please share this information with all other people who may drink Sterling's water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). We also would encourage you to read the attached fact sheet from the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for additional information about this situation.

For more information, please contact Bill Wright at (970) 522-2619 ext. 156 or by mailing concerns to Bill Wright, P.O. Box 4000, Sterling, CO 80751

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