



City of Foley

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Dear Residents & Business Owners,

Every Foley resident is receiving this letter to notify users of a consumption advisory regarding the municipal water supply. This notice affects approximately 900 residences and business owners who receive their water from the city municipal water system. This notice is also being sent to private well owners in the city limits who may want to further research their private well system.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducted additional testing in 2021 as part of a study of unregulated contaminants. This testing showed that some of our wells have manganese levels above MDH's recommended health guidelines. This notice is an advisory of an unregulated standard.

The Issue: Manganese

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in rocks and soil and is often found in Minnesota ground and surface water. Your body needs some manganese to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful. Learn more by visiting the MDH webpage at www.health.state.mn.us and searching for *Manganese in Drinking Water*.

Manganese is unregulated and does not have an enforceable standard. However, the MDH recommended health guidelines are:

- 1) If you have an infant who drinks tap water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 parts per billion (ppb) or less.
- 2) If you have an infant who never drinks tap water or formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 ppb or less.
- 3) If everyone is more than one year old, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 ppb or less.

The City requested testing from MDH to better understand manganese levels for all City wells. The most recent results are as follows:

Well #5 156.5 ppb
Well #4 141.5 ppb
Well #3 705.0 ppb

The City's municipal water supply is primarily pumped from Well #5 with Well #4 used intermittently for backup. Well #3 is rarely used.

Short Term City Solution

The City is dedicated to providing clean and safe drinking water to residents. Moving forward, Well #3 will only be used as emergency backup when water use is high and the other 2 wells cannot meet system capacity.

During the summer months, the demand for water will increase, resulting in the need to use water from multiple wells. This could increase manganese levels if the emergency back up well is needed. The health effects of manganese are from long-term consumption so emergency use of Well #3 would not create a health risk.

Long Term City Solution

The City of Foley is working with engineering consultants and MDH professionals on plans to reduce the manganese levels in the City's municipal drinking water. The City has already applied for funding for a future treatment facility for Well #5 and is currently on the safe drinking water project priority list.

Long-term solutions are being evaluated to permanently reduce the levels of manganese in drinking water. These options include:

- Constructing a water treatment plant with filtration.
- Drilling a new well.

In the meantime, MDH recommends residents consider the actions below.

Recommended Actions

While the city's manganese levels are below 300 ppb, a level that is safe for adult and child consumption, MDH recommends using bottled or treated water for formula fed infants under the age of 12 months.

There are several things you can do to filter manganese out of your drinking water. Certain types of home water treatment units remove or reduce manganese (refrigerator water filter, pour-through pitchers, units that attach to faucet, water softeners, etc.). Water treatment units must be maintained to work properly. Visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website: www.health.state.mn.us and search *Home Water Treatment* for details.

If you do not have a home water treatment device that removes or reduces manganese, you may want to consider installing one or using bottled water for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula.

Private Well Owners - Some Minnesota groundwater naturally has levels of manganese higher than the MDH guidance values. Homeowners with private wells are responsible for having their wells tested. Learn more on the Minnesota Department of Health's website: www.health.state.mn.us and search *Owner's Guide to Wells*.

Additional Information

The City is dedicated to providing clean and safe drinking water to residents. Testing by the Minnesota Department of Health shows the City's municipal water supply continues to meet all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Again, this notice is an advisory of an unregulated standard.

For more information, visit our website at: www.ci.foley.mn.us or call City Hall at 320-968-7260 during our normal business hours.