



CITY OF NACOGDOCHES STAFF RESPONSE ELEVATED LEVELS OF TRIHALOMETHANES (THMS) REPORTED IN DRINKING WATER

BOTTOM LINE:

**Our water is SAFE for drinking, cooking, bathing and other uses.
It does not require boiling or filtering for use.**

What Happened:

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) samples our water every quarter to test for Trihalomethanes (THM).
- Samples tested in September showed two locations with THM levels, significantly above the maximum allowable limit.
- State and Federal laws require that we send a written notice to all customers in their water bill.
- The City immediately hired an outside laboratory and re-tested these two locations and found much lower levels of THMs, well within acceptable limits. Our test results were over 80% lower than the tests reported by the State. The water was found to be safe.
- The City feels that the State's tests were in error and is currently working with them to have the value removed from our records.

What Are Trihalomethanes (THMs):

- These are compounds that are naturally formed as a by-product of chlorine reacting with some organic materials that naturally exist in the water. Chlorine is how we disinfect our drinking water to make it safe to drink.
- THMs may present a health risk only if you drank water with very high levels for many years.
- Nacogdoches has never had unacceptable or high levels of THMs in the past and we believe we do not today.

What Are We Doing:

- Since current levels of THM are well below the maximum limit, no action other than the notices sent with the water bill, is required by TCEQ.
- As a precaution, the City is flushing water lines.
- Extra activated carbon is being added to the lake water to help absorb any possible organic material.
- We will continue to make frequent tests of our water for a while to make sure THMs are not a problem.
- We are providing updated information to the media and the public through water bills, our web page, and social media.

The City is committed to providing clean, safe drinking water for our citizens. We will continue to immediately post accurate and timely information in the event we ever have any public health concerns with our water supply. Our lake and well water are both SAFE for drinking, cooking, bathing and other uses. It does not require boiling or filtering for use.

If you have citizens with any questions you may contact Steve Bartlett (City Engineer) at 936-559-2522 or Bart Allen (Water Utilities Manager) at 936-564-5046 ext 2201.

