CITY OF RUSH CITY PUBLIC NOTICE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests show levels of gross alpha emitters, radium 226 and radium 228 above drinking water standards

Rush City public water system routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Recent testing results from Treatment Plant #1 shows the annual average level of gross alpha emitters was 16.5 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L), and the combined radium 226 and radium 228 average was 5.5 pCi/L. These are above the standards, or maximum contaminant levels (MCL), of 15.4 pCi/L for gross alpha and 5.4 pCi/L for combined radium.

Gross alpha emitters and radium occur naturally within the groundwater. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters and radium in excess of the MCLs over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

This is not an emergency. You do not need an alternative source of water, such as bottled water. However if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Home water treatment units are available to reduce gross alpha emitters and radium, which include water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation. It is recommended that these home water treatment units be certified to ensure gross alpha and radium removal. The use of carbon filters is not recommended for removal of gross alpha emitters or radium, as those emitters and radium may accumulate in the filter over time.

Your public water system is considering methods to reduce the levels of gross alpha emitters and radium, which may include additional water treatment or changes to the filter. You will be informed when the public water system has reduced the levels and meets the standards.

For more information, please contact City Hall at 320-358-4743, admin@rushcitymn.us, or 325 S. Alger Avenue, PO Box 556, Rush City, MN 55069.

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