



CITY WATER SOFTENING STATUS

Dear Resident,

February 2011

In the first half of 2010, the City of Pickerington had to reduce the amount of softening done to your tap water, resulting in water with an undesirable hardness level of 200 mg/l. Earlier this month, the City was able to resume softening your city tap water to the previous level. This is a more desirable hardness level that averages 130 mg/l. It is anticipated that the City will be able to keep the City's water at this desirable hardness level from now on.

Our customers who have a home based water softener system should adjust their softeners accordingly. Many customers will not need to use a home based water softener at all.

On a related note, we are making good progress on changing our water treatment process to a reverse osmosis system. The project is on schedule for being operational in the second half of 2011. The reverse osmosis system will result in the City of Pickerington having the best quality water in the area. The hardness from the reverse osmosis system will also average the more desirable 130 mg/l.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Currently, the City of Pickerington's water treatment plant (WTP) utilizes conventional sodium ion exchange softening to achieve a desirable hardness level in the City's drinking water. The backwash waste stream created during softener regeneration is conveyed to the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). High total dissolved solids (TDS) present in the ion exchange waster streams are causing elevated levels of TDS in the WWTP effluent. The elevated TDS levels in the WWTP effluent are higher than our current Ohio EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limit of 1,632 mg/L.

The elevated levels of TDS occur mainly in the summer, when water use is high and the flow of water in the receiving stream, Sycamore Creek, is low. The elevated levels of TDS have been as high as a monthly average of 2,380 mg/L.

While the elevated levels of TDS have not been shown to detrimental to bugs and fish, the Ohio EPA has indicated that the City must meet the permit limit. Thus, the City is changing the WTP softening process from conventional sodium ion exchange softening to reverse osmosis (RO) softening. The RO softening does not use salt and therefore does not add TDS to the waste stream. The RO softening system will be operational in the 2nd half of 2011 and will give city water customers the best quality water in the area. In addition to not using salt, the RO system will remove other potential contaminants such as ammonia, pesticides, arsenic, cadmium and lead.

Progress and Tradition in our Community

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