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Independent tests confirm presence of chromium-6 *Health Officials assure drinking water is safe*

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) and Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) continue to work closely regarding public health concerns surrounding the previously reported finding of Chromium-VI in Milwaukee drinking water by the Environmental Working Group (EWG). Since the report was released, we have taken steps to gather additional information to determine the presence and concentration of Chromium-VI in Milwaukee drinking water.

To date, three rounds of samples have been collected from the water treatment plants and distribution system and analyzed by outside laboratories. In each round, samples were collected from six separate locations: untreated lake water entering Milwaukee's two water treatment plants, fully treated water as it leaves both treatment plants, and from two locations in the distribution system (receiving water from each plant). Two of the three sampling rounds identified the presence of Chromium-VI. One sampling round did not detect Chromium-VI because that analytical method used was not sufficiently sensitive to measure Chromium-VI at low levels.

The MHD and MWW will continue to monitor and review scientific, regulatory and public health information and data as forthcoming around this important topic. Currently, Chromium-VI is not regulated as a contaminant by the federal government. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Safe Water Drinking Act is responsible for regulating contaminants in drinking water, and has committed to issue guidance and recommendations on this matter to water utilities in the near future.

At this time, there is no public health evidence or indication that Milwaukee drinking water is unsafe for consumption or use (i.e. cooking, bathing, cleaning, etc). Furthermore, there is no need to purchase or install special filtration devices at faucets, water fountains or any point of use location in residential or commercial establishments.

As further information becomes available, the MHD and MWW will jointly update their respective websites and issue press releases and conduct media briefings as warranted.

Think Health. Act Now!