

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FOUR CORNERS WATER PLANT**

St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 5

The St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 5 (Four Corners, Sorrell, Ashton areas) has officially shut down the Four Corners Water Plant for renovations. We do not expect issues with providing our customers with safe, reliable drinking water during this time; however, due to the change in water supply, we will use chloramines to disinfect our water in addition to the chlorine that we currently use.

WHAT ARE CHLORAMINES?

Chloramines are formed when chlorine and ammonia are combined. This disinfectant is used to kill potentially harmful bacteria in the water.

WHY ARE WE CHANGING TO CHLORAMINES:

Like many communities, our water has been disinfected with chlorine for decades. Chlorination kills existing bacteria and guards against bacterial growth in the distribution system. However, when chlorine combines with natural organics in water, small amounts of disinfectant byproducts called trihalomethanes (THMs) are formed. While this is not a major concern for our particular system, other advantages are noted. Use of chloramine will reduce the need for high disinfectant concentrations to be added at the Public Water System's two (2) groundwater well installations. This will mean less chlorine odor/ taste concerns for customers close to disinfectant injection points.

Chloramine forms disinfectant residuals that are stable and long lasting. This means that the aesthetic and disinfectant quality of the water will be maintained for weeks instead of days.

The U. S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the standard from 100 parts per billion to 80 parts per billion, effective January 1, 2004, as the maximum level of THMs allowed in drinking water. The EPA recommends chloramines as a disinfectant and as a way to avoid THM formation.

ARE CHLORAMINES SAFE?

Yes, chloramines have been used safely in the US. And Canada for many years and the EPA recommend chloramines as a disinfectant. If we did not disinfect drinking water, disease-causing organisms such as typhoid and cholera could be carried in your drinking water.

IS CHLORAMINATED WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Yes, chloraminated water is safe to drink, as it is for bathing, cooking and other uses we have for water every day.

WILL ANY WATER CUSTOMERS NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE CONVERSION?

Yes, some customers will. Medical center and hospitals providing kidney dialysis, individuals and businesses maintaining fish tanks, film developers and some laboratories and businesses with processes affected by drinking water disinfection agents may need to change their pretreatment steps to remove chloramines.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that customers who are on a **DIALYSIS MACHINE** or who raise **AQUATIC LIFE** such as **AQUARIUM FISH**, should take necessary steps to **REMOVE THE CHLORAMINES** that are present in the water supply.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Persons who use tap water containing chloramines for hemodialysis (artificial kidney machines) must ensure that the water is properly treated to avoid a potentially serious health problem (methemoglobinemia). The types of controls available to users include carbon filtration and reverse osmosis or chemical reduction. Operators of licensed dialysis centers know that tap water must be treated before use in dialysis. Dialysis operators must be prepared for an anticipated chloramine concentration of 1 to 3 milligrams per liter. The maximum concentration allowed by law is 4 milligrams per liter. In addition, users of home dialysis systems which utilize tap water for dialysis purpose must ensure that the tap water is properly treated to remove chloramines prior to the use of such water for dialysis.

2. Chloramines can be deadly to fish. Since chloramine is more persistent than Free chlorine (which is also toxic to fish) treatment and aging of water to be used in an aquarium is more critical when chloramines is present. Suggested action for fish fanciers, breeders, or pet shop owners includes the use of activated carbon filters and or a sodium thiosulfate solution (widely available). Care needs to be taken to replace filter cartridges regularly.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you need additional information, contact the Water & Sewer Commission No. 5 Office at 337-236-4299.