

Stacey Parker

From: Stacey Parker
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Subject: PRESS RELEASE 09/22/14 - Water Taste and Odor Concerns

PRESS RELEASE



City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

For Immediate Release: September 22, 2014

Contact: Water Treatment Plant, (405) 321-2182

WATER TASTE AND ODOR CONCERNS

Recently many of the City of Norman's water customers are experiencing a taste and odor event in the drinking water due to the lake "turning over". The hot summer temperatures warm the full depth of the lake and in the fall, the cooler night time temperatures cool the upper levels of the lake. This cooler top layer of water becomes denser and sinks which cause the lake to "turn over". In addition, algae blooms die off and fall to the bottom of the lake while releasing a slight amount of taste and odor compounds. The turn over mixes the lake and stirs the taste and odor compound into the water. The water is absolutely safe to drink but gives off a musty taste and odor even though only in concentrations of parts per trillion.

As an interim measure, Water Treatment Plant is leasing a Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) machine to help combat the event. The machine was delivered and set up in July of this year and is leased through end of October. Staff began to detect the taste and odor event as early as last Monday. Staff increased the PAC feed rate to its maximum level. The treatment is helping but customers may still detect taste and odor in the finished water.

We want our customers to know that the water is safe to drink and we are doing all we can with the temporary PAC feed system to reduce the taste and odor. Unfortunately, as we have seen in the past, the taste and odor event may often last three to five weeks.

For additional information, please contact the Water Treatment Plant at (405) 321-2182.

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