



CITY OF EMPORIA

Press Release

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By: City of Emporia

DISCOLORATION OF CITY WATER

Some residents have recently been experiencing discoloration of their tap water. As everyone knows, our drinking water comes from the Meherrin River which has an abundance of iron and manganese. Of the seven various chemicals used in the treatment process, potassium permanganate is used to combat iron and manganese. This chemical suspends the iron and manganese resulting in clear water. On occasions, the iron and manganese will come out of suspension and can be seen in our tap water. This results in water that often has a light brown, yellow, or red tint.

Water main breaks, firefighting activities, and the start-up or shut-down of the water treatment plant can increase the velocity of water traveling through water mains. The increased speed often causes the iron and manganese sediment lying on the bottom of the mains to get stirred up, resulting in discolored water. The release of iron particles from water mains may also contribute to the discoloration.

Public Utilities is currently flushing all water lines throughout the City in an effort to remove built-up sediments that settle in water lines over time. Public Utilities will continue to flush all lines on a quarterly basis and as needed in particular areas.

Please be advised that during periods of water discoloration the City's water supply continues to meet all State and Federal drinking water standards and is safe. Please also be advised this issue is not unique to Emporia. Water distribution systems across the United States also experience this same issue.

If you experience water discoloration you are advised to run your cold water faucets until the water clears. If the water fails to clear, please contact Public Utilities at 634-4500. Public Utilities also recommends not using your washing machine and dishwasher until the water clears.

Please contact Linwood Pope, Director of Public Utilities at 634-4500 or Tom Delbridge, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent at 634-2544, should you have any questions regarding this information.