

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Monday test results and temporary actions.

Wakefield, MI. (May 02, 2023)- On Monday, May 01, 2023, the City collected samples from our municipal water supply. The samples were collected from the City's source water sampling point and two locations within the City's distribution system. The source water sampling point is where the raw water from the aquifer enters our water system before the addition of chlorine and fluoride.

Sample testing yielded three negative results from distribution sites and one source water sampling point. The remaining source water sampling point tested positive for E.Coli. Therefore, the Water Boil Advisory remains in effect.

Today, the City hosted a meeting with representatives from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, C2AE, U.P. Engineers and Architects, City of Bessemer, Bessemer Township, Wakefield Township, Ironwood Township, and the Gogebic Range Water Authority.

Beginning tomorrow, the City of Bessemer will take the unprecedented action of temporarily supplying drinking water to the Gogebic Range Water Authority and, ultimately, the City of Wakefield. The process is complex and requires multiple valves to be exercised in coordination. The transition will be completed in three stages. The first stage will transfer Ironwood Township and the western portion of Bessemer Township. The second stage will include the remaining parts of Bessemer Township and a portion of Wakefield Township. The last stage encompasses the remaining portion of Wakefield Township and the City of Wakefield.

Municipal water customers affected by the Water Boil Advisory, which excluded the City of Bessemer, may experience temporary low pressure and water discoloration. Each stage will require substantial flushing of the mains, much like seasonal hydrant flushing. Due to numerous variables, we cannot provide an exact timeline for the complete transfer to the City of Bessemer water supply and for the Water Boil Advisory to be lifted. Please continue to boil your water until notified.

The City is engaging engineers, consultants, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to assist us in returning our wells to normal operations. As previously mentioned, Kleiman Pump and Well Drilling will be onsite on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, to conduct enhanced disinfection of our well shaft, casing, and vent pipe. Water sample results after the cleaning are anticipated to be available on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

The Water Boil Advisory includes municipal water customers of the Gogebic Range Water Authority (Bessemer Township, Ironwood Township, and Wakefield Township).

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Dave Semenak, Water Operator, at 906.364.2886.

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