



## Filtration System Update

November 10, 2021

The chlorination and filtration system to remove manganese and arsenic has been online for 10 days. As with many operational changes the switch has not been without challenges. Here are a few of the issues that we face and are working on controlling.

**Entrained air in the system.** When the system was first put online, two wells that were previously having their flow reduced had their flow rate increased. That unfortunately resulted in the wells pulling air into the system. The result is milky or cloudy looking water. If the water sits for a few minutes it will clear to normal. The water is safe for consumption. We are conducting spot flushing as this is not a system wide issue. Air can be stubborn to remove so there is no estimated time frame for complete removal.

**Chlorine feed rates.** Initially chlorine is being introduced into the system at a higher rate than when the system has been online for a period of time. It takes time for the chlorine to disperse through the entire system because of the initial chlorine demand. The water in the system is using chlorine at a high rate now but once that initial demand is satisfied the chlorine dosage will be reduced. It is currently a really low flow time of year which is making the infusion of chlorine throughout the system slow.

The WA Department of Health requires a minimum 0.2 mg/l free chlorine residual in the water system. The maximum residual we can deliver is 4.0 mg/l free chlorine. At this time we are feeding a 0.8 mg/l residual. Once the chlorine demand is satisfied, we will be feeding a 0.5 mg/l residual into the water system which is the residual the filtration system requires.

The OWSI crew is out in the system testing and flushing to get through this period of change over. Please have patience as we work through these issues and improve the water quality ultimately to benefit you, our customers.