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The City of Burleson's public works department has received several complaints about the taste and odor of Burleson's drinking water. Burleson is one of 20 entities that receives its water from the City of Fort Worth. Fort Worth issued a news release Jan. 13 stating that the water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and all other purposes, despite the "earthy smell and taste."

The Tarrant Regional Water District performed required and scheduled maintenance on the pipeline from the Richland –Chambers Reservoir last week. The Rolling Hills Water Treatment Plant and Westside Water Treatment plants were switched over to Lake Benbrook as the sole water source. Test results showed an increase in the geosmin levels in Lake Benbrook.

The levels of geosmin have been steadily rising in recent months. Geosmin is a naturally occurring compound produced by bacteria in soil and algae found in surface water. Cold temperatures kill off the algae in surface water and the dead algae release the geosmin. Geosmin is not toxic or harmful.

Fort Worth has increased the dosage of ozone at the Rolling Hills and Westside plants to try to resolve the taste and odor problem. It could take several weeks for the smell and taste of the water to return to normal.

Other entities that may be experiencing the same issue include Bethesda Water Supply Corporation and Crowley.

For more information, please go to the City of Fort Worth website, <http://tinyurl.com/ptjo8qr>.