

February 11, 2014

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

The taste and odor issues in Fort Worth's water supply are showing substantial improvement, according to the Fort Worth water department, since the Lake Benbrook water was blended with Cedar Creek Lake water in late January.

The naturally-occurring organic compound responsible for the earthy taste and odor is geosmin. Geosmin is 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.

According to Fort Worth, the geosmin count in the raw water blend was 104 nanograms per liter on Feb. 10, down substantially from 864 on Jan. 23. Because of the substantially lower levels in the raw water, ozone treatment is effective in reducing geosmin to levels that do not pose taste and odor issues. The level of geosmin in the finished water delivered to customer taps was down to 10 nanograms per liter on Feb. 10.

The City of Burleson buys its water from the City of Fort Worth. The wholesale customers that regularly purchase water from Fort Worth include Bethesda Water Supply Corp., Crowley, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, Dalworthington Gardens, Edgecliff Village, Everman, Forest Hill, Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Haslet, Hurst, Keller, Kennedale, Lake Worth, Northlake, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Saginaw, Southlake, Trophy Club Municipal Utility District, Westlake, Westover Hills, Westworth Village and White Settlement.

In a Jan. 14 news release posted by Burleson, it stated that the first notification from Fort Worth said the Tarrant Regional Water District had performed required and scheduled maintenance on the pipeline from Richland-Chambers Reservoir the first full week of January 2014. The Rolling Hills Water Treatment Plant and Westside Water Treatment plants were switched to Lake Benbrook as the sole provider. Test results then showed an increase in the geosmin levels in Lake Benbrook.

In a Jan. 23 news release posted by Burleson, Fort Worth said that that week's results indicated that the geosmin count in Lake Benbrook had almost doubled from the first full week in January. The TRWD said the geosmin levels were the highest seen in years.

Geosmin is not toxic or harmful. It is safe for drinking, cooking and bathing, although it has an earthy smell and taste to it. Customers may improve the taste of their drinking water by refrigerating the water in an open container; or adding a slice of lemon or lime.