

January 14, 2015

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

The City of Burleson fielded a handful of complaints Tuesday about the taste and odor of the drinking water, so our public works department checked with the City of Fort Worth, which is the source of Burleson's water supply. Bottom line, the water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and all other purposes, even though it has an earthy smell and taste.

According to the City of Fort Worth website, the issue became noticeable at the end of last week. At the beginning of the first full week of January 2015, Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) took the pipeline from Cedar Creek Reservoir out of service for routine winter maintenance. That pipeline is scheduled to be out of service through mid-February.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, a break occurred on the water line from Richland-Chambers Reservoir. This required switching the water supply for the Rolling Hills water treatment plant to only water from Lake Benbrook, which experienced a slight rise in Geosmin levels last week.

While reloading the pipeline after the repair, TRWD reported another break occurred Jan. 13. According to Fort Worth's website, the TRWD is uncertain when the repair will be completed and water is flowing again in the pipeline. Until that time, Lake Benbrook water is the only source of supply for the Rolling Hills water treatment plant.

The City of Burleson gets its water from the Rolling Hills plant. Now that Rolling Hills is treating the higher Geosmin Benbrook water, Burleson is experiencing some taste and odor issues. Geosmin is a naturally-occurring organic compound responsible for the earthy taste and odor. It 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.

Other 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.