

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON WATER



Q: Why are we building a new water plant?

A: Our current water plant is over 50 years old and continuing to age. The current plant was also built to only address the removal of iron and not manganese from our water. The discussion began back in 2011 to determine what the best course of action would be to address this aging water plant. Different options were presented including piping the water from Springfield, rehabbing the old plant and building a new plant. Ultimately the choice was made to build a new water plant in early 2016. The new plant has been designed to remove Manganese from the water when it leaves the plant.

Q: Why is Village water sometimes discolored?

A: The distribution system within the village is very old and was not designed to remove Manganese. As a result, there is a buildup of Manganese in our pipes. When water pressure is increased, turbid waters can displace the settled Manganese. This causes the water to be discolored or even brown.

Q: What is Manganese?

A: Manganese is a mineral that naturally occurs in rocks and soil and is a normal constituent of the human diet. Manganese may become noticeable in tap water at concentrations greater than 0.05 milligrams per liter of water by imparting a color, odor, or taste. However, health effects from Manganese are not a concern until concentrations are approximately 10 times higher.

Q: How much manganese is in our drinking water?

A: The Village of Yellow Springs Manganese levels average 0.160 milligrams per liter.

Q: Will the new water plant stop the brown water?

A: The new water plant will remove iron and Manganese from our water. Since Manganese is a mineral that has settled in the pipes in our distribution system over a long period of time, it will take some time for the sediment to be flushed from the pipes. The Village is establishing a new unidirectional flushing program which should help to flush manganese build up from the pipes.

Q: Will the new water plant be softening the water?

A: Yes, the new water plant will be softening the water using a pellet softening system. Before water treatment, the Village's water is considered extremely hard; even though the water will be softer, it will still be considered hard water.

Q: Will I still need my water softener at my house?

A: Although the new water plant will produce softer water, the water will still be considered hard. Some residents and businesses may choose to keep their personal water softeners depending on personal preference and needs.

Q: When will the new water plant be up and running?

A: We expect that the new water plant will be brought online by the end of 2017. This has been a project in the planning and construction phases for a number of years and we are finally close to the brand-new plant!

Q: Will we be able to visit the new water plant?

A: The water plant is not an area open to the public on a regular basis, however once the new plant is up and running the Village plans to host a ribbon cutting and grand opening event so that Villagers can tour the new plant and see it first hand! Stay tuned for details! Villagers may also contact our Water/Wastewater Superintendent to schedule a tour.

Q: What are the health effects of Manganese?

A: Manganese is a naturally-occurring mineral that people need in very, very small amounts; however, excess Manganese can be a problem. For information about how excess Manganese can affect you, refer to <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=101&tid=23#top> . For specific health-related questions, contact your health care provider or Greene County Public Health at (937) 374-5600.