

Drinking Water – Pathfinder Village

Recently the Minnesota Department of Health notified Pathfinder Village regarding recent well testing. The well testing indicated that some of the wells serving public water to Pathfinder Village had boron present in significant but varied, concentrations.

Boron is likely naturally occurring as a result of local geology. Although boron may be an essential nutrient at low levels, there are health concerns at higher levels. Primary concerns relate to fetal and infant development and male fertility.

Boron is not currently a federally-regulated contaminant under the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) generally recommends that water exceeding 1000 micrograms of boron per liter of water (1000 ug/L) not be used for drinking or other consumption, especially by certain susceptible populations including: pregnant women, infants, and males in their reproductive years.

The Minnesota Department of Health has also requested that all users of the water supply in Pathfinder Village be notified of the high levels of boron in the water, and the health concerns associated with consuming the water. The Minnesota Department of Health also recommends that Pathfinder Village provide commercially bottled water for drinking and other consumption.

The Board of Directors and Pathfinder Administration have been working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide you with safe drinking water from various locations within Pathfinder Village. Because of the high levels of boron in certain locations throughout the park, we have had all of the wells tested independently. The report indicated that only the deep-water wells had the high levels of boron. Unfortunately, these deep-water wells are the primary source to the public water supply in Pathfinder Village.

With the help of the Minnesota Department of Health, we have identified a water source that, based on the results of recent testing, had boron below the level of health concern. The well that tested below the acceptable limits is next to the river. This well will be removed from the public water system and will be designated for drinking water. This well will be clearly marked “DRINKING WATER.” Please keep in mind that clean and sanitized containers must be used for the collection and storage of drinking water from this well, in order to reduce the chance of bacteriological contamination. Pathfinder Village also has bottled water for sale at the Country Store.

Please visit our website at www.pathfindervillage.net for more information about boron. Please contact Pathfinder Administration if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue.