

CHATHAM COUNTY WATER UTILITY

UTILITIES

- Maintenance and Construction
- Water Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Billing & Collections



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PUBLIC NOTICE TO DRINKING WATER CUSTOMERS

Northeast & Southeast Chatham County Water Customers

Beginning January 15, 2010, Chatham County Utilities will temporarily stop adding ammonia to its water treatment disinfection process, as required by state law. Chatham County will resume adding ammonia to the water treatment disinfection process on February 15, 2010.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires all systems using chloramination to suspend the addition of ammonia for a one-month period each year. This change in the disinfection process provides an additional safeguard in controlling any biological growth that may occur in the water distribution system.

Chatham County Utilities uses both ammonia and chlorine to form chloramines for its disinfection process. Ammonia is added to the water in a carefully regulated dose and reacts chemically with the chlorine to produce chloramines.

Chloraminated drinking water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and many other daily uses. The only noticeable change may be a decrease in chlorine taste and/or odor.

During this period (Jan. 15 - Feb. 15, 2010), two groups of people need to take special precautions with chloraminated water – **kidney dialysis patients and people who keep fish in tanks or ponds filled with county water.** Dialysis patients and fish owners already must treat any water they use for chlorine removal. Additionally, any customer who pre-treats county tap water for any process should be aware of this change and consult the manufacturer of any pre-treatment equipment for recommendations.

Chatham County Utilities will also conduct flushing of the water distribution system during this period to speed up the change of chloramines to chlorine residual disinfectant. The system flushing may result in some minor discoloration of water, so be cautious in laundering light-colored items during this period. If you have any questions or concerns please contact customer service at 919-542-8270.