

## **Town of Penhold's Water Quality**

The Town of Penhold water source is high quality groundwater, meaning that the physical, chemical and radiological parameters in the water meet the maximum acceptable concentrations (MAC) under the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ)*. Therefore, no treatment is required to comply with this guideline; however, there are a few naturally occurring parameters such as, iron, manganese, and sodium which are near or exceed the aesthetic objective (AO) limits under the GCDWQ.

The AO limits of these parameters are based on aesthetic considerations and are not health related. Drinking water with much higher concentrations has been safely consumed and therefore, maximum acceptable concentrations have not been established.

The presence of these parameters may cause undesirable tastes and odours and consumers may experience discolouration in their water especially when filling high volume units such as, bath tubs and hot tubs, etc.

In 2014, the town changed their chlorine disinfectant from chloramines to free chlorine to meet the province's disinfection requirement for viruses. The change in disinfectant is causing the dissolved iron and manganese to precipitate out of the water and into the waterworks system. As a result, consumers should be aware that increased maintenance frequency of in-home treatment systems and hot water heaters may be required such as, increased draining or flushing of the units. Please contact the manufacturer and/or supplier for more information on suggested maintenance requirements.

If consumers are experiencing high discolouration events, do not drink the water. Flush the water at the tap until it becomes clear. If the problem is not resolved by flushing, please contact Public Works Department at 403-886-4265.

Environment and Parks and Alberta Health Services are aware of the above issues. The Town of Penhold has implemented interim measures to help mitigate the issue and are assessing long-term measure to eliminate the problem.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

Health Canada

- Sodium <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/healthy-living-vie-saine/water-sodium-eau/index-eng.php>
- Iron <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/healthy-living-vie-saine/water-iron-fer-eau/index-eng.php>
- Manganese <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/healthy-living-vie-saine/water-manganese-eau/index-eng.php>

- Alberta Environment and Parks - Part 1 Standards for Municipal Waterworks Systems (April 2012) <http://esrd.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/drinking-water/legislation/standards-and-guidelines.aspx>

### **Water Quality Complaints**

Any concerns or questions about the Town's water quality should be directed to Public Works at:

Phone: 403-886-4265

Email: [pwsupport@townofpenhold.ca](mailto:pwsupport@townofpenhold.ca)

The reporting and tracking of concerns are important for public works to adequately assess and understand any potential issues or issues occurring in their system. Only if the problem has been identified can it be resolved.