



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRINKING WATER QUALITY UPDATE

A study by a national water consultant has found that differences in pH levels, combined with hard water, are causing water shared between Savage and Burnsville to leave behind a white film and residue.

The study was initiated after residents who were receiving water via the new Burnsville/Savage interconnect began reporting a white residue and film on their dishes. The City of Savage began receiving water from the Burnsville Surface Water Treatment Plant in August. The plant treats water from a quarry that previously had been discharged into the Minnesota River.

Residents in both cities began reporting in September their concerns about the water's taste and odor, with complaints about the white film following. The City of Savage responded by investigating the cause of the concerns, which included hiring a firm that specializes in water quality issues. Officials at the City of Savage decided to close the interconnect in early December until the study was completed and the issues were resolved.

After extensive water quality testing and analysis, it was found that the film and residue is calcium carbonate that is produced when hard water of varying pH (acidity) levels mix. Additionally, many dishwashing detergents provide a pH boost which can exacerbate the issue.

The consultant has recommended that phosphate blend be integrated into the treatment process to alleviate this issue. The commonly used approach will keep the calcium carbonate in a solution form, preventing the residue and film from accumulating on dishes.

The City of Savage will reopen its connection with Burnsville later this month, after spring hydrant flushing is complete. Extensive monitoring and testing will continue to ensure the new treatment is effective. The public's patience is requested during this time period as it is expected to take some time to achieve the correct balance.

The City of Burnsville has made a number of other improvements to the Burnsville Surface Water Treatment Plant over the last few months. Powdered Activated Carbon is being fed and Granular Activated Carbon has been installed in the filters at the plant to aid in taste and odor removal.

City of Burnsville Press Release

Page 2 –

The Burnsville Surface Water Treatment Plant conserves at least four million gallons of groundwater per day coming from the Prairie du Chien/Jordan Aquifer. The increased capacity allows the cities of Burnsville and Savage to meet demand and reach environmental goals of reduced well pumping.

Please contact the City of Burnsville at 952-895-4550 or the City of Savage at 952-224-3400 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

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