

# Town of Taber Drinking Water Update – September 23, 2009

The Town of Taber and EPCOR are monitoring Taber drinking water taste and odor conditions. We will continue to closely monitor and test the treated drinking water to ensure it remains safe to consume. We thank you for your patience as the Town and EPCOR evaluate actions that may be taken to rectify this situation.

## **Q Is my water safe to drink?**

Yes, Taber's treated drinking water is safe to drink. It meets or exceeds all drinking water regulations and guidelines. EPCOR conducts rigorous testing on the drinking water and source water and will continue to monitor conditions until the algae bloom dies off and the taste and odor issues are no longer present.

## **Q Why does my water have an odor or unpleasant taste?**

The taste and odor conditions are related to the growth of algae in the raw water reservoirs and in the raw water supply. The algae release compounds that are not harmful to human health but can be detected by the human nose and tongue at extremely low levels.

## **Q Why can't the water treatment process remove the taste and odor?**

In previous years, algae growth in the Town's reservoirs was controlled using an algaecide, however Alberta Environment no longer allows the use of algaecides in potable water sources.

The Town currently has a DAF (dissolved air floatation) clarification, filtration and disinfection treatment system. Some taste and odor will be removed through the DAF process, however taste and odor is traditionally treated with a carbon feed system which the Town doesn't have.

## **Q Is this problem unique to Taber?**

Algal blooms are a seasonal problem that affects many water systems to varying degrees. Warmer temperatures throughout July, August and September have contributed to this growth. This is a common problem in Alberta for lake or reservoir water supplies.

## **Q What can we do to improve the taste or eliminate the odor?**

Fill pitchers of water and place them in the fridge. Keeping the water cold will reduce the poor taste and odor. You can also add some lemon wedges to the water. Point of use carbon filters will also assist in the removal of taste and odor.

## **Q How long is this problem expected to last?**

Cooler temperatures will contribute to reducing or eliminating algal bloom growth and associated taste and odor. We expect algal blooms to decrease over the fall.

## **Q Who do I contact for additional information?**

Visit the EPCOR and Town of Taber websites at [www.epcor.ca](http://www.epcor.ca) and [www.taber.ca](http://www.taber.ca), or contact EPCOR Taber Operations at 403-223-0618.

