



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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PRICES FORK DRINKING WATER CHANGES: SPECIAL NOTICE FOR DIALYSIS PATIENTS, FISH OWNERS

Montgomery County, Virginia • The approximately 650 water customers served by the Montgomery County Public Service Authority's Price's Fork Water System will have their drinking water treated by a different disinfectant process starting March 17. This has important implications for kidney dialysis patients and tropical fish owners.

The areas affected by this change include residences and businesses along the following roads, and their intersecting streets:

- Price's Fork Road (outside the town limits of Blacksburg)
- Hightop Road
- Merrimac Road

The change is expected to be permanent for customers of the NRV Regional Water Authority (formerly Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority). During this transition, customers may notice a strong odor of chlorine or chemicals. This is normal, and not harmful.

The Price's Fork water has been from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP), and is treated with chlorine. The NRV Regional Water Authority (NRVRA) is the new source for water, which is treated by chloramination and includes fluoride.

With chloramination, ammonia is added to the chlorinated water. Chloraminated water is perfectly safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and all daily uses. But chloramination can affect the way people treat disinfected water. Special care must be taken with chloraminated water by kidney dialysis patients and owners of fish, other aquatic animals and reptiles (including owners of lobster tanks at grocery stores and restaurants).

Although drinking chloraminated water is safe, kidney dialysis patients should contact their physician or kidney dialysis center for guidance on possible modifications to dialysis machines or procedures. Owners of fish and aquatic animals should contact their supplier or pet store for supplies and information. Water products are commercially available for dechloraminating water and are somewhat different than dechlorinating water for use in aquariums.

The NRVRA (then Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority) successfully switched over in 2005 to chloramination, which is used by many other water suppliers.

More information about chloramination is available at www.h2o4u.org. For more details, please call the PSA at (540) 381-1997.

