



CITY OF IRONWOOD WATER SYSTEM

Frequently Asked Questions (part 2 of 2).



The City of Ironwood wants to keep you up to date with the status of our water system. WE want to help answer some of the most frequently asked questions and to give you a snapshot of the municipal water system.

WATER DISCOLORATION

Part 2 of 2

How is municipal water tested?

Municipal water facilities are regulated and monitored by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State Environmental Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) and State Department of Health. The City of Ironwood has licensed professionals who collect water samples per protocols prescribed by the EPA and State regulatory agencies. The water samples are then sent to a State Certified Independent Laboratory for testing. The City of Ironwood sends it's water samples to White Water Associates . Water samples are taken and tested on a weekly, monthly and annual basis depending on the regulations established by the EPA and/or State of Michigan EGLE.

What causes the water to get discolored?

Well water has natural occurring elements in it that include iron and manganese. The iron and manganese are not detectable by the eye but can settle out into the water mains over time if there is limited use on a particular main. The settling of iron or manganese in the mains can be the cause of discoloration of the water if the water in the main gets agitated. The water in the mains can get agitated from activities such as water main breaks, use of fire hydrants, turning on and off valves, etc.

What is currently being done to help address the discoloration concerns?

Currently, with limited treatment, the following actions are taking place to better address the water discoloration concerns:

- Routine water system flushing is being evaluated to improve the effectiveness of flushing.
- City water crews are performing block specific water main flushing if needed in specific locations.
- The City has retained a contractor to remove any sediments that may be accumulated in the Mount Zion water reservoir.
- The City water department staff are working with the State EGLE staff on adjusting polyphosphate levels to better sequester the iron and manganese.
- The City has moved up the routine testing for lead and copper from 2020 to 2019.
- The Michigan Rural Water Association has been contacted to conduct an independent review of the current water system.
- The City water department staff are meeting with any residents who have discolored water or water related concerns.
- Residents are encouraged to call the City water department at (906) 932-5050 if you are experiencing any water related issues.

What else can be done to help eliminate or reduce the discoloration problems?

Removal of Iron and Manganese from the water will require the construction and installation of a water filtration plant in the location of the pumping station. The Ironwood City Commission has approved receiving preliminary Engineering proposals from consulting engineering firms which specialize in designing iron and manganese water filtration plants.

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