

City of Ironwood

Water System Efforts Completed or Underway

September 13, 2019

1. The City of Ironwood Water Department has worked closely with the Western U.P. Health Dept., Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. These agencies have performed multiple rounds of water sampling with all test results, during non-flushing events, coming in below the EPA Health Advisory Levels for Manganese.
2. Results of the three rounds of water testing, conducted by the Western U.P. Health Department, concluded that the health advisory for manganese could be lifted.
3. The City of Ironwood Water Department and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy will review the City of Ironwood water flushing program and determine if any adjustments to the current program need to be made.
4. Public informational handouts will be developed, with the assistance of the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, to distribute prior to the spring 2020 system wide flushing.
5. During the health advisory the City of Ironwood provided bottled water for residents.
6. Request for Proposals (RFP's) have been prepared and sent out to engineering consulting firms that specialize in Iron and Manganese removal options. A firm will be selected to evaluate the existing water booster station as well as determine options and alternatives for Iron and Manganese removal.

7. The City hired a contractor to clean the Mount Zion reservoir, clear well at the pump station and the elevated storage tank in Jessieville. This work has been completed.
8. The City Department of Public Works will perform “spot” flushing for specific blocks or locations as needed.
9. The City Water Department worked with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to adjust the polyphosphate rates to improve sequestering manganese in the water.
10. Lead and Cooper testing has also been completed City wide with all test results coming back well under the EPA established levels.
11. The City Water Department invited the Michigan Rural Water Association to perform an operational audit of the water system operations. The independent audit came back positive with a few minor recommendations, which will be implemented.