



TCEQ Activity Update

Lake Jackson, Texas, Incident

Monday, Sept. 28, 2020

On Sunday, Sept. 27 – Monday, Sept. 28, TCEQ and the City of Lake Jackson began the [free chlorine conversion process](#) by installing free chlorine injection equipment and conducting extensive flushing of the distribution system to quickly move the free chlorine disinfectant throughout the distribution system and storage tanks. TCEQ will continue to monitor the progress of the free chlorine conversion on-site at the City of Lake Jackson. TCEQ will also closely monitor if the City meets TCEQ's requirements to be able to rescind the Boil Water Notice. Although the conversion will last 60 days, once the City meets the requirements to rescind a Boil Water Notice as required by TCEQ's rules, the notice will be able to be rescinded even though the conversion has not been completed.

Staff are also on-site assisting the City with developing a plan for cross-connection evaluations to identify and eliminate possible sources of cross-connections to help ensure the safety of the public water supply. Cross-connection surveys throughout the City have begun to be able to eliminate and identify potential cross-connections. A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between the potable (i.e., drinking) water system and another source containing non-potable water or other substances that could contaminate drinking water if a backflow condition occurs.

The initiation of agency field monitoring is contingent on when the system reaches a system wide free chlorine residual of 0.2 mg/l. Conversions time frames are variable and different for each system. So, this system's conversion may take several days to reach the 0.2 mg/l residual throughout the system. The initiation and progression of the chlorine conversion (changing disinfectant treatment from a chloramine to a chlorine) is being field monitored by Office of Water staff as they work with the City of Lake Jackson personnel to implement the conversion. Regional staff remain in communication with the Office of Water and will initiate monitoring when the conversion is complete.