

Hi Mike,

I met up with a friend of mine in Chicago who supplies equipment to water treatment facilities around the globe. I asked him if I could send the letters that we received about our water in East Texas. Here is the response I got back. I thought you may want to post it on our site for others to see.

Sandy Jendal

Hi Sandy,

In the water treatment process the raw water is filtered to remove ALL particulates - both organic and inorganic, through filtering. After the filtering process the water is "preserved" with chlorine so that it stays healthy enough to drink for a few days. What happens between the time the chlorine makes contact with the filtered water and when you drink it there is still some organic material in the water, that was left behind in the filtering process, that interacts with the chlorine to create the THMs. In order to reduce the amount of THMs in the water the less organic material needs to be in the water. So, a better filtering process needs to be implemented at your local water treatment plant in order to get the THM's down to an acceptable level (below 80ppb) and HAA5 below 60 ppb (1 ppb= 0.001 mg/L)

The trihalomethanes are chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. EPA has published the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule to regulate total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at a maximum allowable annual average level of 80 parts per billion. This level was established in December of 2001 where prior to this date the Maximum allowable average was 100 parts per billion. (Which is still pretty small)

The EPA has set standards for THMs in water because there is a slight possibility of an increased risk of bladder or colorectal cancer over a lifetime of drinking water with THMs above 80 parts per billion. EPA estimates drinking 2 liters of water containing 100 ppb THMs every day for 70 years could result in 3 extra cases of cancer for every 10,000 people. The slight risk of increased cancer occurs only after decades of drinking water with elevated THMs.

However, if you still want all of THM's and the Haloacetic acids to be Removed, you can install activated carbon filters or RO reverse osmosis systems. The AC filters work the best.

Hope this helps explain what is happening. If you are not paying much for your water out at your lake home now you know why. This issue can be easily remedied by flushing lines at dead ends and producing the right amount of water to suit the requisite demand. The storage tank might be too big for the community it serves.

Tim

P.S. The filter in your refrigerator does have an activated charcoal component.