

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

HANCOCK WC Has Levels of Gross Alpha and Combined  
radium 226+228 Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system continues to be in violation of a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what is happening, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Recent testing results show that our system continues to exceed the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Gross Alpha and Combined radium 226+228. The standard for Gross Alpha and Combined radium 226+228 is 15 picocuries per liter and 5 picocuries per liter. The average level of Gross Alpha and Combined radium 226 + 228 over the last 4 calendar quarters was 15 picocuries per liter and 14.8 picocuries per liter.

## **What should I do?**

Because of high levels of Gross Alpha and Combined radium 226+228, it is recommended that you use an alternative drinking water supply (e.g., bottled or other source with levels of Gross Alpha and Combined radium 226+228 known to be below the MCL). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

## **What does this mean?**

The effects of exposure to these contaminants are not likely to be acutely apparent. However:

**Gross Alpha:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Combined radium 226+228:** Some people who drink water containing radium 226+228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Uranium:** Some people who drink water that contains uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

## **What happened? What is being done?**

Our water company has entered into a program sponsored by the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. It is called CO-RADS: Colorado Radionuclide Abatement and Disposal Strategy. Recently finished CO-RADS report recommends cation exchange (water softening) water treatment and an evaporation basin to manage the residuals waste stream. The estimated cost is \$800,000-\$1,300,000 for its 20 year life span. Due to the high costs we are considering alternatives.

We anticipate resolving the problem by calendar year 2011. For more information, please contact Robert Hancock at 719-254-6243 or 2082 Emerald Street, Rocky Ford, CO 81067 or Calvin Hostetler at 719-469-0393. \*\*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Hancock Water Company.  
Colorado Public Water System ID CO0145240

Date distributed: 30 MAR 2009