

UPDATE ON OUR WATER

March 2008

PFBA. New testing was recently conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in regard to perfluorobutanoate (PFBA) and a public meeting was held March 13 at Oakdale City Hall to review the related information.

More extensive research resulted in the Health Based Value (HBV) for PFBA being set at 7 Parts Per Billion (ppb) rather than the previously used value of 1 ppb. The new values for PFBA reflect a clearer understanding of its potential for health impacts during fetal and other developmental life stages, including how long it remains in the body. All of Oakdale's wells conform to and are substantially below this level. The carbon treatment facility at 1900 Hadley Avenue completely filters out PFOA and PFOS of Wells 5 and 9 and reduces the duration of exposure to PFBA found within the water system. As stated in earlier materials, Oakdale's water is clean and safe to drink.

Pharmaceuticals. You may have heard recently about an AP Press News investigation of water systems across the country that found varying levels/types of pharmaceutical chemicals in public drinking water. One of the test cities was Minneapolis, which draws much of its drinking water from the Mississippi River and where low levels of caffeine were found in the water.

Oakdale draws its water from aquifers. The city has contacted the MDH to ascertain if there was any concern for Oakdale residents. MDH staff indicated that our water system is safe and drawing water from aquifers through wells significantly reduces the probability of pharmaceuticals in the system. We will continue to monitor this situation and will pass along new information.

Should you have questions or if you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Oakdale Public Works Director Brian Bachmeier at (651) 730-2730 or Jim Kelly at the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 201-4910. Additional information may also be found at www.ci.oakdale.mn.us.