



Hudson Oaks's Drinking Water is Safe News Release

For release on: November 23, 2009

Hudson Oaks, Texas – Recent reports implying that drinking water in Hudson Oaks is unsafe are misleading and are unnecessarily frightening residents. The water is safe to drink.

In March 2009, the City of Hudson Oaks was notified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that radium levels at one water plant were elevated. That plant is fed by two water wells. Immediately following the TCEQ's notification, the City removed both wells from production and had the water tested. Lab results verified that only one of the wells had elevated radium levels. That well was permanently taken out of production and no water has been taken from that well since March 2009.

In their March utility bills, all water customers of the City of Hudson Oaks received notification of the elevated radium levels and were told the affected well had been removed from the system. Additionally, information about the radium levels was included in the city's annual water quality report, which was produced and mailed to residents in June and is posted to the city's website.

Of all the contaminants for which water is tested for the TCEQ's annual report, radium was the only one found in quantities that constituted a violation. The source of that contaminant was the well that was removed from production in March. Radium levels in water are measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The gross alpha particles should be no higher than 15 pCi/L. The TCEQ notice showed the Hudson Oaks well's levels at 16 pCi/L. The radium particles should be no higher than 5 pCi/L. The TCEQ notice showed the Hudson Oaks well's levels at 7 pCi/L.

The TCEQ reported to the city that, at such low levels of contamination, a person would have to consume mass quantities of the contaminated water for a period of several years to develop any health effects. So the city worked diligently to get the affected well removed from the system within days of the notice of violation, thereby eliminating any further exposure.

The City of Hudson Oaks has worked closely with the TCEQ on this matter and has taken numerous steps to ensure the quality and safety of the water serving its citizens and utility customers. The City of Hudson Oaks staff is happy to answer any questions water customers and area residents may have about the radium issue. Staff can be reached Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 682-229-2400. City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday November 26-27.