

WBRA Members and Residents,

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in much of Whidbey Island's groundwater. For many years, manganese in drinking water was only considered an aesthetic concern causing discoloration and staining. WBRA has a manganese removal filtration system that reduces the level to approximately 1mg/l.

The State of Washington Department of Health, NW Drinking Water Operations, has very recently modified their recommendations based on recent research indicating manganese is a significant health concern at elevated levels of 0.3mg/l or higher for infants under 6 months old. Infants are more at risk of experiencing learning or behavioral problems than older children and adults.

Therefore, we are issuing the following public health advisory to members and residents within the West Beach Road Association based on Washington Department of Health recommendations:

Do not give water to infants under 6 months old or use it to make infant formula or other foods.

Formula-fed infants get enough manganese from formula to meet their dietary needs.

Adults and children of all ages can continue to bathe and shower, brush their teeth, and wash clothes, food and

dishes in tap water.

If you have specific health concerns, discuss your concerns with your healthcare provider.

Brian Hunt, WBRA Manager for Water System Operations, is aware of this recent DOH recommendation and is actively working with NW Water (formerly King Water) to assess our manganese filtration system to see how it can be improved. Further, he is drawing on the expertise of the many Whidbey Island Water Systems Association's members and the experience of long-time water manager, Jim Patton.

WBRA will continue to monitor manganese levels in water and report back as appropriate.

Feel free to address any questions to either Brian Hunt or Rudy Deck.