Hicksville Water District

Hicksville Water District Protects Residents Against 1, 4-Dioxane
FACT SHEET

The compound 1,4-Dioxane was detected at Well 4-2 in Hicksville during preliminary research that is occurring around the country. At no location on Long Island has the levels of 1,4 Dioxane exceeded the safe drinking water standard of 50ppb.

Hicksville Water District personnel have discontinued use of well 4-2 and hold it in reserve as normal demands can be satisfied by other District wells. The District's future plans for using the well will be predicated on whether or not the state or federal government establishes regulations.

QUICK FACTS

- 1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic compound that has been found in groundwater throughout the United States.
- There is currently no chemical-specific federal or New York State drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane.
- 1,4-Dioxane is regulated by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level of 50 parts per billion (ppb).
- The allowed level of 1,4-Dioxane is much lower than that allowed in other food and consumer products.
- In comparison, the EPA's Technology Innovation and Field Services Division set the safe levels for 1,4-Dioxane in food products at 10,000 ppb.
- Safe levels for consumer products such as shampoo, dishwashing soap and other cosmetic products range from 2,000 ppb – 300,000 ppb.
- The limit suggested by the Food and Drug Administration for pharmaceuticals is 380 ppm.
- The Hicksville Water District continuously monitors the water quality and provides treatment to remove contaminants when the level approaches the established drinking water standards.
- The Hicksville Water District is currently seeking a pilot regarding the Advanced Oxidation Process treatment system—the only treatment process proven to remove 1,4-Dioxane.
- The Hicksville Water District urges the EPA and NYSDOH to provide action plans for contaminants of concern.
- The Hicksville Water District's unwavering mission is to provide the safest water to our customers and families.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is 1,4 Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical that is completely miscible in water. It is used as a solvent or solvent stabilizer. It is also used in many products, including paint strippers, dyes, greases, varnishes and waxes; it is also found as an impurity in antifreeze and aircraft deicing fluids, and in some consumer products (deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics).

How does 1,4 Dioxane enter the water supply?

1,4-Dioxane enters the water through unintended chemical spills, leaks or wrongful disposal practices, in addition to products that contain the chemical—including laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, and body wash. Once in the groundwater and soil, 1,4-dioxane is very hard to remove.

What regulations exist for 1,4-Dioxane?

There is currently no regulation for 1,4-Dioxane by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nor the state; however, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level of 50 parts per billion (ppb). Our well had a detection of 34 ppb, well below the default standard.

Will the EPA set a standard for 1,4-Dioxane?

The EPA regularly reviews drinking water standards as new science becomes available and is currently reviewing new 1,4-Dioxane health effects information. Once the review is complete, the EPA will carefully review the conclusions and consider all relevant information to determine whether a drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane is needed. The Hicksville Water District is working with the EPA to help support the decision-making process.

Should I be drinking bottled water?

Bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is required to meet standards equal to the EPA's tap water standards. As the EPA does not have a standard for 1,4-Dioxane, regulations have not been developed for bottled water manufacturers. You may contact individual manufacturers to find out specific information on 1,4-dioxane levels for specific products.