

Lake Bonanza WSC

Working to Provide Quality Water

Addressing Gross Alpha Concerns

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Lake Bonanza Water Supply Corporation Members,

Population growth in Montgomery County, especially in our area, the NW section, has increased greatly, and with such growth comes incredible demands on our resources for good water. We as a board are focused on making sure that our customers will not experience a shortage of good, affordable water. To insure this, we are implementing the following actions:

1. We are nearing completion of the installation of a 5,000 gallon pressure tank, a project that began in January, 2017.
2. In view of occasional high gross alpha in the aquifer we presently tap, the board is pursuing drilling to a deeper aquifer that has plentiful, good water.
3. We have been paying down our USDA loans to put us in a better position to make necessary improvements to our system. We are especially focused on addressing the high interest loans, one of which will be paid off in less than 4 years at a savings of \$134,486.97 in interest. Our goal is good affordable water for years to come.

LBWSC Board of Directors

To keep you updated on water line breaks or construction to our water system, please check out our website at www.lakebonanzawsc.com

If you are like me the first question I had was what exactly gross alpha is and the second question was whether the high gross alpha content could hurt me and my family. These are concerns the board takes seriously. I wish to share with you what we know about gross alpha in our water. Much of the information that I will share with you is from the TCEQ website.

First of all detected gross alpha in Texas comes from naturally occurring radioactive material. Radioactive elements are found in the rocks in the ground and as they decay their alpha radiation is released in the water. These amounts vary and that is why TCEQ averages our last 4 lab numbers to determine if we are over our MCL of 15pCi/L.

So, will this average of 16pCi/L affect your health, according to the TCEQ? The TCEQ's website states that, "Even at the highest levels found naturally in groundwater in Texas, radiochemicals do not pose an immediate risk to health of any-

one who drinks the water." The health risk exists if levels stay high and is consumed for 70 years. "...level of risk is reached by people drinking 2 liters (about a half a gallon) of water everyday for 70 years.."

Our gross alpha levels fluctuates and is often below the 15pCi/L MCL mark.

Solution to the Problem:

For the past 2 years the board has been seeking solutions for this gross alpha issue and has decided to drill to a deeper aquifer where gross alpha is lower. Another advantage to drilling to a deeper aquifer is to stop the continual increase of fees every September forced upon us by the SJRA. By drilling to the Catahoula aquifer we will be in a better position to avoid frequent increases in cost to all our customers.

Respectfully,

Mary Wesolick

LBWSC Board President

Lake Bonanza WSC

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Willis, TX 77378-0893

MEMBERS NAME

MEMBERS ADDRESS

Water will be shut off on **Thursday August 10th** from midnight to 3:30 a.m. for improvements to the system. Flush water until clear using faucet nearest to the water line coming into the house, preferably the nearest outside faucet, to eliminate any discoloration. "Boil Water Notice" will be in effect at that time. **Effecting Lake Conroe Forest, Holly Estates, Rabon Chapel, and S. Pine Lake.**

To sign up for text messages of water outages and construction , please call (936) 856-4199 and sign up.

Addressing Rising Cost to All

LBWSC is having to expand its capabilities to provide water to our growing community. But how can we expand, provide water with low gross alpha, increase pump capacity, and try to keep water affordable to our customers ? A solution that meets such criteria is to drill to the Catahoula aquifer. LBWSC as well as many other water systems are charged pumping fees which increase every September. The SJRA charges a pumpage fee when drawing water from either the Evangeline or Jasper aquifers, but not the Catahoula. The board's goal is to stop the yearly increase once our new well is in operation.

Increasing SJRA Fees from 2014- 2018				
Figures based on average monthly usage of 4,000 gallons				
Yearly SJRA Fee Cost to Customers				
2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
				?
			18% ↑	
			\$160.80	
		8% ↑	\$3.35/1000gal.	
		\$136.80		
	18% ↑	\$2.85/1000gal.		
	\$127.20			
	\$2.65/1000gal.			
↑				
\$108.00				
\$2.25/1000gal.				