

NEWS RELEASE - CITY OF MARSHALL, TEXAS

**MARSHALL WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
WATER TREATMENT DIVISION
FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

**Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING
WATER ODOR ISSUE**

Our municipal water may smell or taste different, but it's safe.

Many cities across the state are currently experiencing a similar issue as Marshall with water odor and taste, which is being described as an earthy smell or taste.

The changes that many cities are having is due to a naturally occurring annual event this time each year when extremely cold temperatures kill off algae in the surface water on Lake O' The Pines, which releases a compound called geosmin; this is what is causing the odor and taste difference being experienced by so many cities.

Normally, this annual event is minor and not noticed due to the short duration. However, this year the very cold weather and weekly cold fronts have continued to kill off the algae in lakes across Texas for several weeks.

We began adding activated carbon at the water plant and are attempting to set up the process to add the activated carbon upstream of the water plant to assist in reducing the odor and taste.

We appear to be toward the end of this event, because we are no longer detecting a high level of odor at the water plant. One method customers can use that may improve the odor and taste to their drinking water until this annual event passes is to refrigerate and chill the water in an open top container.

We do apologize for this extended odor and taste event, as we take great strides to provide the highest quality water to our customers.

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