

## **Important Notice to Clay Rural Water Customers Regarding Disinfectant of Water**

On February 15, 2021, the Clay Rural Water System will be changing the disinfectant that we use from chlorine to chloramines. This change is intended to benefit our customers by reducing levels of disinfection byproducts (DBP's) in the system, while still providing protection from waterborne disease. Chloramine is less reactive than chlorine and as a result it does not form byproducts as readily. This will allow the disinfection byproduct levels to be safely below the EPA established maximum. This is in line with the introduction of more stringent EPA standards to reduce the health risks associated with disinfection byproducts in chlorinated water. Chloramination is a common treatment process in which a small amount of ammonia, diluted in water, is combined with chlorinated water. While most customers will not notice any change in their water, some might notice that the taste and odor of chlorine is reduced.

### **Dialysis Persons Affected**

However, the change to chloramines can cause problems to persons dependent on dialysis machines. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, the pretreatment scheme used for the dialysis units must include some means, such as a charcoal filter, for removing the chloramine prior to this date. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment.

### **Fish Tank Users Affected**

In addition, chloraminated water may be toxic to fish. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters that you are using are designed for use in water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you use for the fish tank.

Please share this information with anyone who you feel may be affected by this change. We will post more information on our website and Facebook page. There will also be follow up information in the April issue of Quality on Tap. Please feel free to give us a call with any questions or concerns at 605-267-2088. Thank you!