



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLOUCESTER PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM CHANGES DISINFECTANT

As of October 31, 2017 Gloucester County Public Utilities switched the disinfectant used at the water treatment plant for the public water supply from chlorine to a combination of chlorine and ammonia. This change was made to address two recent water quality issues, discolored water and disinfection byproducts (DBPs).

The specific DBP issue is related to the total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), which increase with time in the water system. Chloramines react slower than chlorine alone to form DBPs and are longer lasting in the distribution system. Reduced DBP formation also allows the treatment of raw water more aggressively to remove iron and manganese, two major causes of discolored water.

If you have any questions about chloramines, please refer to the bill insert included in the October utility bills. If you do not have a copy of that insert, or have further questions, please call Public Utilities at (804) 693-4044.